Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro Continues Official Visit to South Africa

Diplomatic Ties Established

FL1105161594 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] It has been officially announced in Pretoria that South African President Nelson Mandela made one of his first foreign policy decirions today, establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Cuban and South African Foreign Ministers Roberto Robaina and Alfred Nzo formalized a protocol that establishes a new stage in relations between Pretoria and Havana today. The two governments had no diplomatic relations to date because of our government and people's rejection of the now-dismantled racist system of apartheid.

Less than 48 hours after becoming president, Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress [ANC], raised the relations of friendship and solidarity that have existed for years between Cuba and the formerly proscribed ANC to the government level.

During his visit to Pretoria, Castro said there have been moments of strong confrontations in past bilateral relations between Cuba and South Africa. Castro recalled Cuba's internationalist position against the policy of apartheid against the majority black populations of South Africa, Namibia, and Angola—a policy now overcome—adding that there is now a new South Africa, where there is peace, respect, and affection toward Cuba.

Today, Fidel Castro, heading the Cuban delegation, will conclude his first official and friendly visit to South Africa, a visit that began on 9 May to attend the inauguration of Nelson Mandela, the first black president of a country that has left behind more than three centuries of racial discrimination now.

At the signing of the new document regarding diplomatic relations, Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina was accompanied by Angel Dalmau, Cuban ambassador to Namibia; Rosa Elena Simeon, minister of Science, Technology, and Environment; and (Marcos Rodriguez), who will represent our country in Pretoria temporarily.

Castro Meets With Mandela

FL1105133494 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Today, Cuban President Fidel Castro met privately with his South African counterpart, Nelson Mandela. Castro attended Mandela's inauguration ceremony in Pretoria yesterday.

Early this morning, Castro visited Mandela at Mandela's official residence, where they talked behind closed doors. In remarks to the press yesterday, Castro said new possibilities for cooperation between the two countries are opening up, as the African National Congress assumes power. He added that because of the ties of friendship and affection that exist between the two countries, with no other country in the world are there such broad possibilities for cooperation as there are between South Africa and Cuba.

After meeting with Mandela, Castro granted the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the local television network, an exclusive interview at the Arcadia Hotel, where he and all the members of his top-level delegation are staying.

Regarding his first visit to South Africa, whose army fought Cuban troops in the struggle for the independence of Angola and Namibia, Castro said there are two South Africas and two moments in the history of South Africa. He said there was a moment of strong confrontations but that now there is a new South Africa, where there is peace, respect, and affection toward Cuba.

Castro Meets With De Klerk

FL1105135294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, who actively supported the African National Congress in its struggle against the policy of apartheid, held a friendly talk with outgoing South African President Frederik de Klerk during the luncheon that followed black leader Nelson Mandela's inauguration. Casiro was introduced to de Klerk by Mandela. Welcome to South Africa, de Klerk said to Castro; and through an interpreter Castro responded: I wish you success. Mandela then introduced Castro to General Georg Meiring, chief of the South African Army, and the two men shook hands. In 1987, South African troops confronted Angolan and Cuban troops in Angolan territory. [passage omitted]

Castro Holds News Conference

FL1105222594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 May 94

[Report by correspondent Gisela Bel Heredia]

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro granted a news conference to the Cuban reporters accompanying him on his visit to South Africa. Fidel discussed possible Cuba-South Africa ties, and Mandela's historic victory.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Earlier this month, an ANC [African National Congress] representative discussed the preceding events, and explained that once Nelson Mandela was inaugurated, South Africa would proceed to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba. That is their intent. They even included this in a document known as the New South Africa Foreign Policy Charter.

In view of the fact that we have already attended the inauguration and that certain talks have been held with cabinet representatives, what are the prospects that this will become a reality?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] of our relations with Mandela, the ANC, we have more than diplomatic relations. We have had close ties of brotherhood for many years. I believe we are family. Regarding foreign relations [words indistinct] conditions, the closer our friendship with a country, the less we ask to establish ties. We allow circumstances and the appropriate moment to determine the establishment of ties to occur. In the special case of South Africa at this time, we could not make a definitive statement.

I have been received here like a brother, like a son. We have not pressed the issue of formal ties, however. I believe that perhaps tomorrow, it will be brought up in the talks with the foreign minister. Robertico [Robaina] has been talking with the foreign minister. Tomorrow, I will again meet with Mandela. Perhaps, he will bring this up and ties will be established immediately. We will not bring it up however. We must bear in mind what is good for them, and the appropriate moment to formalize ties, rather than bringing it up like a demand or as a request from us.

It seems something, however, [word indistinct] that those ties will be established quickly because there are few countries with whom we have stronger ties in common—kinship and fraternal ties.

Today I greeted almost every minister. I did not speak with ministers from other countries. We talked like old relatives. I am convinced all of them want the quick establishment of ties, but out of a basic sense of courtesy and respect, we should not exert pressure. They can do it whenever they are ready. Relations, de facto, are very strong between South Africa and Cuba.

[Reporter] Commander, for many years, Cuba and South Africa had great differences because of Angola. Did you ever think then, or later, that you would be here today in the former capital of apartheid?

[Castro] Well, there are two South African nations. We have to return to its history. For specific reasons, strong clashes took place. Now, however, there is a new South Africa in which such clashes no longer exist, just peace, harmony, respect, and affection.

Your question dealing with Angola is very difficult to answer. [Words indistinct] the independence of Angola. We were in Angola for 15 years. From the beginning of intervention by foreign forces in Angola, we gave it our support—for 15 years. So many things happened. We did not have a strong presence, but it was strong enough because we could not, nor did it depend on us alone, to attain a position was the problem. [sentence as heard]

In Angola, we fought with the greatest selflessness. The rest was the responsibility of the Angolan people. We were not Angola's only supporters. Nevertheless, we can say that we helped, selflessly and with great loyalty. I would said that our support was very efficient, and that Cuba's support was not only efficient, but intelligent. We have no reason to regret anything we did. Rather, we could say that several difficult times were confronted, difficult but not through our fault. Cuba fulfilled its duty. Cuba contributed to solve the highly difficult problems that arose. I do not want to criticize anyone. I believe today is not a day to criticize. Perhaps history will record this. [end recording]

Castro's Arrival Awaited in Brazil

FL1205020094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 94

[Excerpt] Cuban President Fidel Castro is scheduled to arrive tonight in Salvador, Bahia State, on Brazil's Atlantic coast, on his way from South Africa, where on 11 May, the reestablishment of full diplomatic ties with South Africa was announced.

This will be Fidel's fourth trip to Brazil. Friendship organizations have mobilized to welcome Fidel, who has made apparent his admiration for the Brazilian people. His previous visits have had great repercussion in Brazil and copious coverage by its media.

Cuba and Brazil maintain active bilateral relations and commercial exchanges have increased lately. Brazil has commended Cuba's health system and also used Cuban medicines, like the meningococcal meningitis vaccine. Fidel's previous visit took place last year during the summit in Bahia, which everyone agrees is very similar to Cuba, and whose people are as friendly and ebullient as the Cuban people. [passage omitted]

Hoarders To Be Prosecuted Regardless of 'Backgrounds'

FL1105233494

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1600 GMT on 11 May features the program, "Straight Talk," with host Osvaldo Rodriguez from JUVENTUD REBELDE and guest Maribel Acosta from Cuban television.

In relation to Decree-Law 148, Rodriguez opens the discussion by asking: How are we going to identify the money hoarders? Acosta answers that, "the measures against the money hoarders is the only popular, truly popular measure of the group of measures being implemented to heal national finances. This is not news. It has been clearly stated that the other measures are not popular measures, that they involve sacrifices, and the people's understanding is needed."

Acosta adds that other measures cannot be implemented without first implementing measures against the money hoarders. Rodriguez adds that the money hoarders are corrupt, in addition to being great corruptors.

Returning to how to identify money hoarders, Rodriguez states: "We would have to check with the authorities as well as the police. I believe they have been working at this for awhile. A year ago, I was told certain files were being put together to identify who these people were and how they operated." Acosta points out that the decree-law mentions "disproportionate amounts in relation to legal income."

Acosta adds: "Official reports reveal that 80 percent of the Cuban population has direct or indirect ties with the black market, and this is illegal." Rodriguez goes on to say that the decree tries to confront those "people who are millionaires" and that these people are well known. Rodriguez adds that in El Cerro Municipality, "a very modest area, where most of the neighborhoods are humble, and where most people live even below a modest level," he witnessed a money hoarder's son receive privileged treatment and found it offensive.

Rodriguez stresses that "this virus is an ulcer that is almost becoming a social class" and is developing its own corresponding ideology. Rodriguez adds that hoarders "live differently and think differently."

Acosta adds: "Many people have told me that this should have been done a long time ago. This reveals the essence of the people's opinion to which you referred. This is the most popular measure. Therefore, it is necessary to implement this measure quickly, correctly, in an organized manner, and fairly in every sense and in every sector, upon whomever it ought to be implemented because if this is not done and our principles are not preserved, which evidently this decree is trying to do, then it demoralizes the people, demoralizes the Revolution, and could demoralize it to the point of becoming the beginning of a gradual erosion of power. If the Revolution loses its power, then the essence of what we are discussing becomes meaningless—if measures are not taken against profiteers in a country were measures of adjustment and strong economic measures are being taken."

Rodriguez points out that the actions ought to be drastic, but implemented without fear. He closes by saying: "I believe no one should be exempt, no matter who the individuals are, and regardless of their backgrounds. I believe the law has to be applied to anyone who has acted illegally, has become wealthy illegally—the decree specifies this clearly—not only through theft and illegal operations, but also through embezzlement within state entities or entities with links to the state. I believe there are going to be such cases. If this is done thoroughly, it is likely that such cases, which we might even lament, will come up."

Haiti

Judge To Be Installed as 'Provisional President'

FL1105162194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1430 GMT 11 May 94

[Mobile unit report by Rothschild Francois from the streets of Port-au-Prince—live, monitored in progress]

[Text] [Francois] ...should take place. We do not know exactly where this session will take place, whether in one of the two branches of the legislature—that is at the Chamber of Deputies or the Senate. In any case, the employees of the Legislative Palace's security service told us just a moment ago that military and police will be on the scene shortly to guarantee the safety of the legislators on the occasion of the installation of Judge Jonassaint as provisional president of the Republic.

This morning, we see that the main gates to the National Palace are open. We are waiting for noon, so as to attend the installation of the new provisional president of the Republic, attorney Emile Jonassaint, a decision made by the senators of the Senate Office presided over by Senator Sansaricq. As Senator Ebrane Cadet told us, certain deputies backed this initiative.

This has been Mobile Unit 20 for Radio Metropole. Listeners are asked to stay tuned to Metropole for all the news regarding this installation ceremony, which is to take place at noon in Port-au- Prince.

[Announcer] Thank you, Rothschild. We have learned from reliable sources that the Army General Staff will be present at the ceremony to install the new provisional president. More details will be provided in a later news bulletin.

Army To Attend Jonassaint Installation Ceremony

FL1105174194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] The Army General Staff will participate in the installation ceremony of the new provisional president of the Republic. The secretariat of the Army General Staff has confirmed the presence of its members at the ceremony to install Emile Jonassaint as provisional president this afternoon.

After the ceremony, which will take place at the Senate of the Republic, attorney Jonassaint will go to the National Palace to take office and receive military honors. AFP has noted that the two guns usually used to fire the traditional 21-gun salute given all new presidents in Haiti were seen under their [word indistinct] on 11 May at the Army General Headquarters. [passage omitted]

Jonassaint's 11 May Inaugural Address

FL1205004694 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1735 GMT 11 May 94

[Speech by Emile Jonassaint at his installation ceremony as "provisional president" at the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince on 11 May—live; passages within quotation marks in Creole]

[Text] Mr. President of the Senate of the Republic, Gentlemen Deputies, Honorable parliamentarians including both senators and deputies, dear colleagues of the Court of Cassation of the Republic and members of the judicial power, Mr. Commander in Chief of the

Haitian Armed Forces, distinguished members of the High Command, Officers, Noncommissioned Officers, Soldiers, Ladies and Gentlemen Dignitaries of the State, Reverend representatives of the Episcopal Conference and the Protestant Church, Rosicrucian and Freemason brothers, dear Voodoo friends, citizens:

"Today, Haiti says it will not die. [applause] It must live so all its sons can suck at its breast. Courageous men and women have decided to administer a serum to the country until it leaves the hospital bed of total and complete embargo, which tries to weigh it down. We do not promise miracles because the sickness is serious and the medicine is very expensive.

But we call on all fellow citizens to be patient. We ask them for a chance so the doctor can work on them to bring recovery, but the sick person must want to be treated. The sick person needs the important surgical operation of elections. The sick person needs the vitamins of unity. Let us hold hands to save our country. Haiti is ours, it is mine, it belongs to all of us. All of us together must save it." [applause]

It has been said with good reason that roses and lilies do not have a future, but that the fate of mankind places itself above that of the bird that sings and dies. [applause] I had the distinguished honor of speaking in Arcahaie on behalf of the Senate of the Republic 41 years ago on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the creation of our bi-colored flag. After briefly recalling the terrible sufferings endured by our ancestors in Africa, in the holds of slave ships, and in the land of Saint-Domingue, I spoke of our soul, thirsty for justice, peace, and love, with a sincerity that seems to have moved a great number of my fellow citizens.

Today, there is only one remedy that can cure all the diseases of Haiti. It is love. [applause]

As has always been said by a great radio station director, we must bury every hatchet. We can no longer continue to kill one another. It is no longer possible. In the current state of affairs, we must all, together, look at ourselves and say our mea culpas because the responsibilities are shared. There is not just one guilty person. We are all guilty to one extent or another. [applause]

It is time that we got rid of the mortal certainty that any solution for our country will come from elsewhere, that any progress will necessarily be imported. We alone know our realities, our real needs, our objectives. Those who pretend to want to help us must take that into account. Still, it is necessary that we ourselves know these needs, that we listen in our land to our people, to ourselves. God helps those who help themselves.

It is through this contempt for our deep realities, this misunderstanding of our problems, this lack of knowledge of our objectives that we are sinking under the weight of injustice by our foreign partners. If the painful situation that we are facing today has any merit, it is to make the majority of Haitians aware that the solution lies within themselves. It is because of this search for a Haitian solution that the parliament has decided to call on the president of the Court of Cassation to temporarily fill the function as head of state, following the duly observed defection of the executive power. It is my duty to answer history's call positively. [applause] In fact, for you and with you, I accept this challenge. I am calling on the patriotism of all the nation's sectors to help me bear up under the challenge.

The national context and the current international context are extremely difficult—internally, an impoverished and hungry nation, destroyed and nonexistent infrastructures, a weak and still weakening economy, uncontrolled commerce, stalled industry, an underequipped Army, a fragmented society, shaken institutions, a devastated ecology, a country to which everything seems to be lost. Everything remains to be won, however. Externally, a desorientated New World Order, a misinformed foreign opinion, a delinquent humanitarian policy, corrupt international law, [applause] a disjointed planetary system deprived of a global strategy in which a double standard is mercilessly applied, according to special interests or media surveys. The man of good faith observes, frustrated. To quote Charles (?Melon), president of the French parliamentary group, French Democratic Union: The triumph of illusion and trickery, seduction over reason, humbug over argument.

At a time when it is appropriate to criticize the elite and the established order, they are accused of all sins, relying on the ineffectiveness of denial and abusing the credulousness of the crowds. The real reasons for the problems are then displaced. The people, blinded, swoop down on the designated fall guy. This facet of demagoguery is handled brilliantly by several modern leaders under the standard of democracy and human rights. It is an imposture.

I earnestly implore the international community to grant this country the deadline needed for restoration of truth. May it pause to observe, allowing the provisional government to make emergency decisions and take measures on the local level for the protection of the fundamental rights of its citizens, especially in the case of the clandestine departures of refugees, risking the lives of men, women, and children at sea. In addition, despite the abuses the Republic of Haiti suffers through the blind ambition and self-importance of some of its sons, today, I make the solemn commitment to respect the sacred principles of the law and the clauses of our international commitments. [applause]

A little more than 50 years ago, in the magazin LE TEMPS of Port-au-Prince, Doctor of Philosophy Abbot (Gingrat) asked this question: Where is the truth about social problems, about moral problems, and about religious problems? He answered by saying: The man, the demigod who could answer these questions and answer peremptorily by invoking universal persuasion and the death of all doubt would resolve the enigma and cure the diseases of this world. [applause]

This is the reason, this is the reason [repeats himself] we ask all our fellow citizens to unite because one single man cannot solve the problem of Haiti. I take this opportunity to offer my keen congratulations to our valorous officers and soldiers who intervened, who said no at a moment [words indistinct] was reigning in the country. [applause]

To the honorable members of the parliament, I can say only one word because in order to thank them, as I have said many times before, I would have to use the language of the gods, or at least the one of [word indistinct] or of what St. Jean (Chrysostome) called the golden mouth. I will just tell them thank you.

Tomorrow, history will remember their gesture, and all those who, today, pillory and hold them up for public condemnation will bow before their courage and their patriotism. [applause]

A final, parting word, because we must be brief. May we all fulfill our duties with love, truth, and justice so that fellowship and peace finally prevail in our unfortunate country. [applause] May the God of our hearts, of the universal church, of the eternal religion bless us and help us! [applause] May the protective gods of the homeland and all our [word indistinct] surround us with their protection as an impenetrable rampart, now and forever. [applause]

Malval: Jonassaint Appointment 'Illegal'

PA1205035994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2347 GNT 11 May 94

[Report by Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 11 May (EFE)--Today, Acting Prime Minister Robert Malval described as illegal the appointment of Emile Jonassaint as Haiti's provisional president and stated that he does not recognize "this act, which is contrary to the Constitution." He added that a situation has been reached whereby "those entrusted with the mission of safeguarding national sovereignty are the persons who endanger it."

Jonassaint was appointed provisional president by a group of senators headed by Bernard Sansaricq and with the support of the Armed Forces and Army Commander Raoul Cedras.

Malval, who resigned in December but who remained as acting prime minister until constitutional President Jean Bertrand Aristide appoints his replacement, called on "patriots and responsible people to oppose this forceful coup, which is against the Constitution and the Governor's Island agreements signed" in New York. This agreement establishes Aristide's return to power, who was overthrown on 30 September 1991 by a group of military officers.

Meanwhile in Washington, President Aristide's spokesman, Jean Claude Martinau, said Jonassaint was president of an illegal supreme court, therefore his presidency is illegal. Martinau upholds that this government will have the same fate as previous governments appointed by the military and that he will be used as a puppet.

Victor Benoit, leader of the National Congress of Democratic Forces party, condemned the action and called it "illegitimate and illegal." Benoit said he will stay home and stop going to the Ministry of National Education, Youth, and Sports.

Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the extreme right Mobilization for National Development, backed Jonassaint's appointment as acting president. De Ronceray believes the Senate carried out a patriotic act by designating Jonassaint and that the decision will "put the house in order." He added that "we must prepare to successfully face all international community challenges."

U.S. Ambassador to Haiti William Lacy Swing sent Jonassaint a letter requesting that he respect the Haitian Constitution, in which the judge took part. [sentence as received] Swing described the act as illegitimate and called on Jonassaint to join those who wish to defend that Constitution.

Likewise, the union sector condemned Jonassaint's appointment and said this will facilitate U.S. diplomatic games to occupy the country. A Haitian Workers Central leader said Sansaricq, Jonassaint, and those who back this maneuver will be the persons primarily responsible for a military intervention. The labor leader believes that all Jonassaint's acts as president are null and without a future. The labor leader also said that Jonassaint's appointment is a coup within a coup d'etat against Aristide.

The National Federation of Popular Organizations [Confederacion Nacional de las Organizaciones Populares], through its Secretary General Banes Cherestal, described the appointment as a new coup d'etat that will worsen the situation of extreme poverty the people of Haiti are in. Cherestal asked himself who does Senator Sansaricq work for and what is his true goal. The union leader made several proposals to resolve the crisis and mentioned among them that Gen. Cedras resign, as he promised within the framework of the Governor's Island agreement. He also proposed amnesty for the military members, that Aristide appoint a prime minister, Aristide's return in a reasonable time period, and that UN sanctions be lifted.

Report on NBC Interview With General Cedras

FL1105221694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 9 May 94

[Text] The head of the Haitian Army, General Raoul Cedras, was interviewed on U.S. NBC Television. The general, questioned on a possible U.S. military intervention in Haiti to allow the return of President Aristide,

said it would be a gross mistake. For the Army commander in chief, the solution to the crisis should come through dialogue. Regarding those who attempt to reach Florida by boat, Gen. Cedras indicated they are economic refugees. Rothschild Francois filed a report:

[Begin recording] [Francois] The first subject touched on with Gen. Cedras on Sunday 8 May on NBC was the situation of the boat people. To the Army chief, those Haitians who go to sea are economic refugees. They go searching for greater economic welfare and the American dream, he added. The general pointed out that under the administration of President Aristide, in April 1991, 400 Haitian boat people were able to reach Florida's coasts. Clearly, to the first in command of the military institution, the economic situation is responsible for the refugees.

Questioned on the proposal made by some sectors of the United States who favor a military invasion of Haiti to restore President Aristide to power, Gen. Raoul Cedras asserted that such a decision would be a gross mistake and indicated that for him, the solution to the crisis would come through dialogue:

[Cedras in French, with passage-by-passage translation into English] You know that Haiti is a very small country. One can always ensure trial of strength [?over night, over right]. I personally think that a military invasion would be a gross mistake.

[Unidentified reporter in English] Would you resist such an invasion, or would you escape?

[Cedras] It is not the Army which is [word indistinct]. It concerns a country, a country which must be indemnified, a country which has its laws, its rights. You are asking me if I would escape. I would tell you that personally, I do not have any importance. The nation's highest interests order me to support dialogue to reach a solution to the crisis.

[Francois] On the thorny question regarding his resignation as head of the Army, and his willingness to respect the agreements made on Governors Island, Gen. Cedras explains, and we quote: The problem has always been wrongly posed. People focus more, he says, on the superficial points included in the agreement. For me, the Governors Island agreement is a global plan which would allow for reconciliation among Haitians. I was quoting the Army commander in chief. If the parliament passes the amnesty law, would you be ready to resign as head of the military institution and allow the return of President Aristide to Haiti?

[Cedras] At this point in the situation, everyone in Haiti and abroad should favor dialogue as the only way for us to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

[Unidentified reporter] General, that does not really answer my question. Would you be willing to accept an amnesty law and step aside for President Aristide?

[Cedras] I am telling you that, when, in the Governors Island agreement, we considered the amnesty law, it was based on a global plan. Now, we are talking about the amnesty law. What about the other measures? What about those who did not respect their word?

[Francois] During his interview on 8 May with NBC, Gen. Cedras condemned the sanctions, saying they should have been a means not a policy. He hopes the international community will reconsider before the total embargo takes effect in less than two weeks.

Gen. Cedras, who was questioned by NBC from the Teleco [telephone company] Building, asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to review his policy toward our country. [end recording]

President Salinas Names New Education Secretary

PA1205024994 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by Oscar Navarro from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Excerpt] Jose Angel Pescador Osuna was sworn-in only 10 minutes ago as new education secretary. He promised to continue the education programs, but said something important and something that attracted much attention. He said that he would Mexicanize education. This happened a few minutes ago in the Pan-American Room at the Education Secretariat. Here Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo, representing the president, swore in Pescador Osuna, and highlighted the work of Fernando Solana Morales as education secretary. By the way, I do not wish Solana any luck in his new political life and we shall hear why.

[Begin Carpizo recording, in progress] ...leaves the post of education secretary to become a senate candidate for the federal district. We all know the very long list of public posts that Solana has filled ranging from National Company for Basic Commodities to several state secretariats. In a few more minutes, Solana will become a senate candidate for a political party in accordance with the new electoral laws. To avoid committing any electoral crime, I will simply say thank you without any praise. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Drug Trafficker Receives 40-Year Sentence

PA1105163894 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Salvador Chavez from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Drug trafficker Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, imprisoned in the Almoloya de Juarez Prison, will remain in jail at least until the year 2,034. Here is Salvador Chavez with a report:

[Begin recording] [Chavez] Raul Felipe Garza, from the Attorney General's Office in Jalisco, has revealed that Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, considered one of the most notorious drug trafficking capos in Mexico and the Medellin Cartel's contact in Mexico, was sentenced to 40 years in prison by the fourth district court judge. Garza explained that Felix Gallardo was tried for the murders of U.S. DEA agent Enrique Camarena Salazar and Mexican pilot Alfredo Savala Avelar.

[Garza] Felix Gallardo received a 40-year sentence, and the Special Prosecutor's Office has agreed with this decision.

[Chavez] Was any appeal filed regarding compensation for damages or the fine?

[Garza] He was sentenced to 40 years in prison, fined 1,485 new pesos, and asked to pay some 1,550 new pesos in compensation for damages.

[Chavez] Felix Gallardo was accused of planning the kidnapping and murder of U.S. DEA agent Camarena and Mexican pilot Savala Avelar on 8 February 1985. He was accused of crimes of homicide, kidnapping, and torture. [end recording]

Senate Approves Treaty on Joining OECD

PA1105215794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 94

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Senate took a very important step in today's session by approving the protocol by which Mexico joins the OECD. In order to join the OECD, which includes the world's most developed nations, Mexico will no longer be in the so-called Group of 100, in other words the Nonaligned Movement, in which Mexico participated as an observer. Mexico is no longer in that group.

Senator Porfirio Munoz Ledo participated in today's debates. Of course, he was not very pleased and said that Mexico is now a poor country within an organization of rich nations.

[Begin Munoz Ledo recording] We have resigned what, on many occasions, has been described as leadership, which in fact was Mexico's recognized historical moral authority over developing nations to become the poor relatives of an organization with which we have no historical links. I will not mention the case of Turkey, out of our respect and friendship toward that sovereign nation. [end recording]

Munoz Ledo stressed that Mexico's withdrawal from the Nonaligned Movement at this time will be very costly.

Senator Jesus Rodriguez y Rodriguez, president of the Finance Commission, reacted to Munoz Ledo's statement. He described Munoz Ledo as an archaic politician who has remained in the seventies and who never sees anything positive when the country takes a step forward. He said that by entering the group of developed nations, Mexico seeks to be in a better position for international competition.

[Begin Rodriguez y Rodriguez recording] I did not hear any good arguments from him. I only heard miserable and pathetic expressions. Although his words may have some impact, I want to hear arguments. I would like to say that I am afraid that as in the case of the legendary Rip van Winkle, the opposition senator has remained in the past, he has remained in the decade of the seventies. He moved into the eighties with some difficulty because his personal participation was necessary, but the truth is that he continues talking about a world and an economy.... [pauses] first he talks about the postwar period

and then about [word indistinct]. The reconstruction of Europe is way back in history. [end recording]

Senator Rodriguez y Rodriguez said Mexico's entrance into the OECD is a fundamental step toward achieving the development for which we are striving.

EZLN's Marcos Cited on Chiapas Peace Talks

PA1105161994 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 May 94 pp 1, 6

[Report on interview with Zapatist National Liberation Army Subcommander Marcos by Hermann Bellinghausen in Guadalupe Tepeyac Chiapas State, on 6 May]

[Text] "From the beginning, we noticed the government has indicated clearly that it is hard-liners who are imposing their will," EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] Subcommander Marcos said here during an interview. Marcos added: "If there is no democracy, a civil war will ensue in Mexico." The government "is making a mistake again by taking a hard-line position," Marcos reiterated.

The morning after the meeting between Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis, mediator Samuel Ruiz, and EZLN representatives, Subcommander Marcos commented on the meeting and analyzed the situation. First, he said: "We agreed to meet on EZLN territory for security reasons."

Subsequently, he mentioned three issues that were discussed. First, each party talked about what each member of the San Cristobal peace talks had done. Second, they discussed the national and regional situations. Third, they reviewed the next steps to take.

Marcos summed this up by saying: The EZLN lauded the courage demonstrated by the peace commissioner and the mediator to enter a territory that is not under the federal government's control. Later, the EZLN conceded that the mediator maintained the rapport and cleared the way for the dialogue. The commissioner referred to proposals made by the federal government in the 32-point document and two statements. He has worked hard in seeking a consensus on the proposals and to discuss investment and social programs in the various federal organizations. The EZLN indicated that, in agreement with its latest communique, it has resumed consultations and that in a strict time limit of several weeks, it would be ready to resume the dialogue.

In this regard, Marcos believes "it is premature to talk about the dialogue, or to set a location and date. The EZLN, in accordance with its tradition, must consult all of its militants everywhere." In turn, "the committee will issue a statement."

Marcos added: It is possible to finish the consultations. I do not see why they should be interrupted again. In the meeting, we reached the conclusion that we must respect and wait for the EZLN to make its decisions.

Marcos spoke calmly. Throughout the meeting, Major Mario and Major Moses accompanied him on the same esplanade that witnessed the meeting between peace negotiators in Chiapas yesterday. We are facing that "different" juncture Monsignor Ruiz mentions so often. It is a time that appears to move slowly, but that [words indistinct] speed-up mechanisms themselves.

Marcos said: As we speak, consultations are progressing in communities located in the depths of the jungle, and we expect answers some time next week.

Marcos also expressed his concern over the national situation. A process of political peace and negotiation does not exist, Marcos stated categorically. Marcos summed it up this way: "The federal Army's efforts to support the process, remain on the sidelines, and avoid doing anything that might hinder negotiations were acknowledged during the meeting."

Marcos said: "Both the mediator and the commissioner said the federal Army has withdrawn its troops, and this shows that the sectors involved are continuing the peace process. Subsequently, we talked."

Marcos continued by saying: We certainly had a more pessimistic view of the national situation. Regarding the federal Army, we reiterated that there had not been such a withdrawal of troops. More soldiers have been deployed in the state than in January. But the Army's attitude has changed, avoiding provocations that emerged after the dialogue. Both officials and soldiers have showed more understanding vis-a-vis the causes of our uprising, but a reduction in the number of troops certainly has not occurred. Their belligerence has diminished, and we welcomed that change in attitude, but without conceding a reduction in troops because, as far as we know, there has only been a redeployment.

Marcos added that, regarding the latest government decisions, EZLN followers told Camacho and Ruiz: The issue is not merely the seeking of peaceful as opposed to violent solutions. From the beginning, we have noticed the government has indicated clearly that it is hard-liners who are imposing their will.

According to Marcos, the situation does not seem to be heading "toward a process of political peace and democratization that will eventually become a solution to the EZLN problem, but everything seems to indicate that the government is preparing to resolve this problem by force.

Examples of this include: "The government's major administrative and police efforts are being channeled into repressive measures, the purchase of war material, and the creation of this new super-secretariat, headed by Farell, that replaces Cordoba Montoya. All repression has been focused on one person who has stood out in trying to smother the country's most important sector, namely, the labor sector."

The Zapatist analysis prompts concern. Here is what Marcos said: If there is no democracy, regardless of the Zapatist Army and its political and military role, there will be a civil war in the country. The government is making a mistake again by taking a hard-line position against the people's demands, as if this were the solution to problems. We mentioned at the meeting that the government was making a mistake in its assessment and that the results would be a civil war in Mexico. We insist that this assessment is wrong.

At this point Marcos believes the political road of negotiations should be followed, not the road of force. Marcos said: As opposed to the Zapatist Army, with which one can talk even though it does not have a face, in the case of a civil war there will be no control, security will not count, and there will be no one to talk to.

Marcos reiterated that the main problem is the lack of democracy, "and even if the Zapatist Army is wiped out, this will not be the solution, unless it is a revolutionary solution."

He added: "We see with concern the threat of civil war. In other words, the Zapatist Army sees this as a disaster [de la chingada]." What is going on in the country "does not convince anyone," he commented.

The meeting with Commissioner Manuel Camacho and with Bishop Samuel Ruiz "was brief, lasted only two hours (although officially it was reported to be seven hours long), and reached an agreement to "keep the channels of communication open."

Marcos said: "There are provisions to hold meetings such as this one in safe places, and the only safe place for the Zapatist Army is in the territory it controls."

Marcos also said: The coming months (May, June, and July) are "months of hunger" in the jungle. Planting has just concluded; there are no crops, no money. Access to assistance and goods has been cut off by the military cordon. It might be good to recall, on this occasion, that the people who are going hungry are also armed.

In addition, it has been learned that the majority of the humanitarian aid goes to non-Zapatist communities in the jungle, or it goes to members of organizations such as National Peasant Confederation and Rural Association of Community Interest. No matter what, the people of the region are headed toward "months of hunger" in the wake of the military cordon, which is affecting the life of the community and heightening shortages and isolation.

Marco indicated: After holding consultations, there will be a response if there are conditions that will enable the resumption of the dialogue. During the meeting, which was not a dialogue, "rather, it was an exchange of reports," according to Marcos, other matters were discussed.

Marcos said: Some things were discussed to help broaden mediation, things that would help maintain the dialogue. One preliminary step is to extend the gray areas to other points, given the provocation caused by the presence of belligerent forces, such as the Altamirano Association of Cattle Breeders.

Once again, reference to Morelia came up, the conflicting common land next to the seat of that municipality. If peace is to be established everywhere, this place must also be included.

The subcommander's conclusion about the meeting was that the session was ephemeral: Nothing specific was agreed upon because we are waiting for a reply from the consultation.

After the interview concluded, the subcommander told reporters "off the record" [previous three words in English] that the PRI candidate is expected to arrive this morning in Chiapas. At the same time, Commissioner Camacho and Bishop Samuel Ruiz would be giving their news conference in San Cristobal. One of Marcos' aides heard this on the radio this morning.

The PRI is going to haul off all of the reporters to Tuxtla Gutierrez, Marcos joked. No, they are not going to leave Camacho alone because they still fear him.

During the conversation with the subcommander, as in other winds that blow in the southeast, a clear signal can be seen: The presidential campaigns and their results, which will come on 21 August, have no choice but to pass through the state of Chiapas. National solutions must also pass through here.

Foreign Ministry Congratulates Mandela

PA1105215994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0448 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Mexico City, 10 May (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Foreign Secretariat today announced that the Mexican Government is happy with Nelson Mandela's victory and his swearing-in as the new president of South Africa and has expressed "its most sincere wishes" for his success. In its communique, the Foreign Ministry states, on behalf of the people and Government of Mexico, it is pleased with Nelson Mandela's victory because it ends a long process for racial equality and democracy.

The communique adds that Mandela has dedicated his life to the struggle against apartheid. He spent 27 years in prison and was the main representative of the South African people in "building a new state with civil and political rights for all."

In the communique, the Foreign Secretariat recalls that in July 1991 Mexico was visited by the new South African president. At that time our, country expressed its support for the struggle against racial segregation and reiterated its solidarity with the people of South Africa.

Secofi Lists Goods for Immediate U.S. Opening

PA1105232794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 10 May 94 p 46

[Article by Patricia Munoz Rios]

[Text] Yesterday, the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat [Secofi] revealed that Mexico has already prepared the package of products for which it will demand immediate inclusion during the negotiations Mexico will hold with the United States and Canada to expedite the liberalization process agreed upon in NAFTA.

Reports indicate that only a few details regarding this list of products to be submitted for negotiation are pending review. Those details are being studied jointly with the production sectors because these sectors have directly demanded that their products be included in this package.

Agricultural-livestock and fresh and processed fruit products head the list of products for which Mexico will demand immediate inclusion. Mexico is negotiating this immediate inclusion through NAFTA for the med-term.

Secofi revealed unofficially that talks to expedite schedules for tax-elimination [calendarios de desgravacion] were still in the preliminary stage, agendas have barely been agreed on.

This is occurring despite the fact that the U.S. and Mexican Governments signed a commitment "as part of NAFTA supplemental negotiations to conclude the review process of the tariff acceleration 120 days after the treaty's entry into force on 1 January, that is, 1 May."

The deadline has passed. The United States seeks to expedite particularly the elimination of taxes from products such as wine, plate glass, electric appliances, hardware materials, wood products, among others which make up the long list of goods in the negotiations, however.

Secofi even promised to disclose the list of products to be negotiated by the end of the week of 25 April or the beginning of the week of 2 May at the latest, but this never happened. A report indicated that this package is entirely ready for negotiation, however.

One line of products for which Mexico wants an early opening is that of processed fruits and vegetables. In this line, 62 percent of the exports must go through a 10-year period before tax exemptions go into effect. Twenty-one percent of sales to the United States face a 15-year protection period. Only three percent of the market is tax free.

It is important for Mexico to have an early opening in this line of goods because this is one of the few lines in which the country has a positive trade balance. The main products in this line of exports to the United States, asparagus, broccoli, cauliflower, however, must wait 10 years before the tax-exemption process begins. Tax-exemption on frozen orange juice will begin in 15 years; 10 years for frozen strawberries. The tax-exemption deadline for processed and preserved tomatoes, for processed avocados, and, in general, for vegetables, is five years. Mexico will request immediate tax exemptions on these products.

El Salvador

FMLN Strips 8 of Representative Status, Posts

PA1105220394 San Salvador Radio Maya Vision in Spanish 1845 GMT 10 May 94

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Party National Council, read by Jorge Shafik Handal, general party coordinator, at party headquarters in San Salvador—live]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] National Council, during its regular afternoon and evening meeting on 9 May, discussed as the agenda's main point the FMLN's participation in the Legislative Assembly. The FMLN adopted the following conclusions and agreements:

1. The FNLN's legislative programs and plans were made known and approved. These define the goals and tasks that will be our deputies' work in the struggle for democracy and social justice. The Council agreed to publish and make known this document of guidelines and actions to be undertaken that constitutes a commitment to the Salvadoran people. In this way, we place it at the disposal of the diverse peoples and national sectors for debate and enrichment.

2. In keeping with Article 30, Paragraph 1, of our by-laws, Comrade Deputy Manuel Orlando Quinteros Aguilar, alias Gerzon Martinez, has been appointed leader of our legislative faction.

3. Regarding the events that occurred during the 1 May installation of the Legislative Assembly and the events that followed, the National Council:

A. Ratifies and supports the decision by the Political Commission not to participate in the Legislative Assembly's Board of Directors. ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] has turned this Board into a tool of its hegemony and antidemocratic actions through the surprising and illegal last-minute reform of its internal regulations. Under these conditions, the Assembly's Board of Directors does not reflect the proportional composition that resulted from the 20 March elections and exacerbates the internal regulation that requires deep reform for democratizing the Legislative Assembly's actions.

The Council reaffirms that the FMLN's participation in the Legislative Assembly's Board of Directors depends on democratic reform of the regulations.

B. It ratifies and supports the contents and terms of the communique issued by the FMLN's general coordinator on 3 May regarding this event.

C. It censures the action of seven deputies who, having been appointed candidates by the FMLN, which is committed to the struggle for democracy, bowed to ARENA's maneuver by participating in the Board of Directors' election and by accepting posts on the board. It also censures Joaquin Villalobos, who without being a deputy has played an important role as instigator of this action.

The National Council believes that the behavior of these eight comrades during and after 1 May constitute a persistent divisive action that violates the norms that rule the FMLN's endeavors and that undermine the foundation of its unity agreement. This is undoubtedly a serious transgression against our party's principles, goals, and by-laws and a harsh blow to the hopes that hundreds of thousands Salvadorans have placed in the FMLN.

D. Before and after 1 May, the eight mentioned comrades have had the chance to participate, with all the rights that the by-laws grant to FMLN members, in the debates and the decisionmaking. Nevertheless, they did not openly present to the Political Commission their intentions nor did they attend this National Council meeting to present and debate their opinions and positions. The by-laws approved and signed by all state: Taking into consideration the significant value of party unity, and within the framework of free discussion of ideas, it is required that decisions be adopted by consensus. If this is not achieved, the minority will respect the decisions of the majority. Article 8 of the by-laws.

The National Council point outs that the argument that within the FMLN there is systematic confrontation of three against two is false. It does not correspond to the reality in innumerable cases of unanimous and consensus votes of four to one and diverse compositions of three to two.

E. Given the above reasons, the National Council agrees to:

E.1. De-authorize as FMLN representatives Deputies Eduardo Sancho, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Juan Ramon Medrano, Fidel Recinos, Eli Avileo Diaz, Sonia Aguinada Carranza, Francisco Mena Sandoval, and Joaquin Villalobos.

E.2. Suspend all these comrades from the posts to which they have been assigned by the National Council. Ask the National Resistance and the People's Revitalizing Expression to correct the conduct that has given way to this situation and to propose substitutes for approval by the Council to participate in the continuing internal debate and in the task of party management.

E.3. Convene a special national convention in June—after canvassing the opinion of the party's rank and file—to ratify these National Council agreements and to adopt the corresponding decisions to normalize the situation and foster the FMLN's struggle and development. In light of the special national convention, the National Council asks the party's diverse district and sectoral structures to hold a broad consultative debate.

[Issued in] San Salvador

[Dated] 10 May 1994

[Signed] Regular National Council

Eight Reject Separation Decision

PA1205034294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] San Salvador, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)—Eduardo Sancho, one of the eight leaders of the former Salvadoran guerrilla organization Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), today rejected the National Council's decision to separate them from their posts in the organization.

Sancho—former commander "Ferman Cienfuegos"—said at a news conference that "we do not accept the decision of the National Council to suspend the members of the ERP [People's Revitalizing Expression] and RN [National Resistance] from the Political Commission because that is the first step toward a permanent expulsion."

Shafik Handal, coordinator general of the FMLN, made the announcement following a prolonged meeting of the FMLN National Council. Representatives of the ERP and the RN did not attend the meeting which ended early this morning.

Seven [as received] ERP and RN members voted for deputy Gloria Salguero—of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena)—for president of the new Legislative Assembly during the installation ceremony on 1 May. In return, the ERP's Ana Guadalupe Martinez and the RN's [Eduardo] Sancho were elected vice president and secretary, respectively, with the support of 39 deputies of the right wing Arena.

Sancho declared that the other three factions of the FMLN—the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces (FPL), the Communist Party of El Salvador (PCES), and the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers (PRTC)—"are not yet democratic, and that is the honest truth." He added: "We reject and do not accept this measure, and we do not view it as a decision," and he stressed "we still belong to the FMLN."

The document prepared this morning by the council points out that its members decided to "suspend all of these companeros from posts assigned to them by the National Council," and asks the RN and the ERP to "correct the behavior that has given rise to this situation and to propose replacements for approval by the National Council."

From another quarter, Walter Araujo, deputy of the ruling ARENA, said that independent of the internal problems of the FMLN, his party will seek "reconciliation in order to gain the support of 84 deputies for the bills, initiatives, and agreements to seek greater unity. The FMLN's problem does not involve the other political parties: it is very much their own problem," Araujo declared.

FMLN: PRD Victory Renews Panamanian Values

PA1205012894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0035 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] San Salvador, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)—A former Salvadoran guerrilla organization said today that, with Ernesto Perez Balladares' victory in the Panamanian presidential elections, that nation's civilian society "reaffirms its conviction of the defense of national values."

Sigfrido Reyes, of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) International Relations Secretariat, told ACAN-EFE that, with the victory of Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), "Panamanians have issued a clear message to those inside and outside that country who proposed a revision of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties signed in 1977.

Reyes added that Perez Balladares' victory on Sunday "is an important sign that will have positive effects on the correlation of democratic forces in Central America." He added that the PRD's triumph was inspired in the "ideals, values, and nationalist views of General (Omar) Torrijos, who struggled for many years to restore the country's autonomy, particularly damaged by the canal treaties which gave the United States absolute control over the zone.

Guatemala

URNG Rejects Proposed Cease-Fire

PA1105141194 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 May 94 p 25

[Paid "Political Statement" entitled "Clarity and Truth To Confront Manipulation and Confusion" issued by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, on 8 May; place not given]

[Text] During this week, statements have been made and media campaigns have been conducted to create confusion and distort the truth. Those statements, in particular, are not simple opinions but, taken jointly, clear indicators of concerted objectives to negatively affect the negotiation process.

Cease-Fire, Reality, and Perspective

It is truly worrisome to see a recalcitrant sector of private initiative, which has taken upon itself to represent all Guatemalan businessmen, and hoist old banners in new times. It is especially troublesome when this sector attempts to actualize positions that have not only been defeated in national and international arenas, but are totally against the spirit and the letter of a previously agreed negotiation, which was held with UN participation.

To propose, as the CACIF [Coordinating Committee for Agriculture, Commercial, Financial, and Industrial Associations] board has done, that first there must be a

cease-fire so that we can later negotiate what is "pending" is nothing more than a clear indication that they do not want the peace negotiations to have any political, economic, or social content. The negotiations are only intended to get the URNG to give up its weapons, without solving any of the problems that caused and maintain the armed conflict.

The current CACIF board's reasoning is not naive. It attempts to have an emotional impact on the population. This old and out-of-place concept has been, precisely, one of the causes of the long and hard war we have endured. The persistance of this reasoning is a serious and hazardous obstacle to the attainment of peace. To achieve peace it is imperative that the previously agreed upon fundamental issues be seriously and thouroughly discussed, agreed upon, and complied with.

After we reach agreements on the fundamental issues on the agenda, using CACIF's words, the "pending" issue would then be the cease-fire. In this case, changing the order of the factors completely alters the product. Anybody knows and the current CACIF board is especially aware that nobody is going to negotiate the causes of a conflict when it has already ended.

If, as they proclaim, they want peace, they must actively and assertively participate, with a positive attitude and social sensitivity, to find solutions for the country's major problems. They should also propose initiatives that will contribute to the advancement of negotiations.

This is the point of definition: Take advantage of the present opportunity to rectify their position, join society, and stop going against the people's interests.

The same can be said about the defense minister's position. He knows perfectly well that this topic unavoidably leads to an interruption in negotiations. It is contradictory that he carries out sensationalist publicity stunts in an attempt to take by surprise the good faith of nationals and foreigners.

The national and international public are aware that most of the problems and sufferings of people in the conflict area are caused by the Army's houndings, persecution, and military actions against the civilian population, especially in the areas where Communities of Resistant People and programs for returning refugees exist.

It is not with a cease-fire declaration that we will resolve our problems. The effective and proper way is to zealously and thoroughly comply with the Global Human Rights Agreement. In the end, the current propaganda and sensationalist measures attempt to diminish the Global Human Rights Agreement will not guarantee the people's rights nor lead the country anywhere.

We, thus, call for reflection. We ask and demand coherence. Anything else is diversion and disinformation to avoid compliance with obligations and the verification process. They are an obstacle to continuing on the set path.

Commission for the Establishment of Human Rights Violations

We consider it positive that the commission's debate on the issue is being endorsed by Army members, and that the need for its establishment is becoming increasingly evident.

The URNG is compelled to state its position on concepts that provoke confusion. Since the beginning, the URNG has considered that the establishment of such a commission was, and is, not only essential but also not postponable because it is a significant commitment to eradicate impunity, guarantee democratization, and eradicate forever terrible events which tarnished and darkened our history. The truth is essential for all this; it is not vengeance, as some have depicted it.

This commission's functions must center on the issue of human rights violations so no one may misconstrue its purposes and goals. This must be an essential starting point. Events determine history. An investigation commission must start with incidents of human rights violations and issue a statement concerning this.

Statements Which Obstruct A Process

President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has repeated, in an inexplicable and absurd way, the speech given by former President Serrano on the negotiation issue. This is reprehensible, above all because it counters agreements that were signed and ratified after 10 January.

To proclaim nonexistent military victories and to proclaim the URNG's alleged defeat at the political and international level, casts doubts on the government's willingness to negotiate, gives evidence of profound contradictions and divisions, and represents obstacles to the peace process. The current administration's only achievement is the signing of agreements on the negotiation process. The president and his government must be aware of this.

His prestige as human rights ombudsman has been criticized all over the world. His only alternative is to comply with, and implement, the human rights agreement. He must also give specific proof that he intends to continue with the negotiation process.

If the president wants to fulfill his role, and if he wants this role recognized at the national and the international level, he must avoid traditional and recalcitrant speeches. It is incongruent and detrimental to repeat them.

URNG GENERAL COMMAND

[signed] Commander Rolando Moran, Commander Pablo Monsanto, Commander Gaspar Ilom, and Carlos Gonzalez, secretary, Central Committee of the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party]

8 May 1994.

Attorney General, Prosecutor General Sworn In

PA1205034394 Guatemala City Televisiete Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 9 May 94

[From the "Channel 7 News" newscast]

[Excerpt] This weekend Acisclo Valladares Molina was again sworn in as attorney general and Ramses Cuestas Gomez as chief of the Public Prosecutor's Office and prosecutor general.

[Begin Guatemalan President De Leon Carpio recording] As president of the Republic, as the ombudsman for Human Rights, as a Guatemalan citizen committed solely and exclusively to his country and its people, I once again express my deepest conviction that Guatemala must change. Each step we take to strengthen democracy, reaffirm human rights, fight impunity and corruption, reestablish lost moral values, and regain the credibility of our institutions will allow us to advance in the right direction—toward our common well-being and comprehensive, complete human dignity.

This is one of those steps that will allow us to walk serenely on the road to a comprehensive peace; peace not only as the absence of war, nor as the end of the internal armed conflict which, thank God, is about to end; but peace as an achievement that includes justice and social stability. [end recording]

Valladares Molina will have advisory and consultative functions in various government activities. He will also conduct a special project involving tax evasion, and will have to deal with the eradication of corruption in the Customs Department. Cuestas Gomez will be responsible for judicial investigations in order to facilitate the fair administration of justice. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Government Denies U.S. Amendment Affects Remittances

PA1105224494 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 May 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Alfonso Malespin Jiron]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has denied that the United States will freeze bilateral aid or that ESAF [Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility] remittances will be affected as a result of a [U.S.] law amendment, not yet approved by Congress, aimed at countries that have confiscated property from U.S. citizens without paying compensation.

Nevertheless, National Assembly President Luis Humberto Guzman described the situation as "extremely serious" and said that "if the law is applied the way I think it will be, the effects on the national economy will be devastating."

The amendment, which still does not have the force of law, reads that all bilateral aid to the government will be suspended if 90 days after the law is enacted the expropriation claims made by U.S. citizens have not been resolved. The amendment also establishes ways to avoid economic sanctions: return the claimed properties; provide adequate and effective compensation for such a property in foreign currency or another mutually acceptable way; apply quick, adequate, and effective domestic compensation in accordance with international law; or, submit the dispute to arbitration in accordance with international law.

Yesterday, Engineer Ramiro Gurdian said in a television program that Senator Jesse Helms had managed to get bilateral and multilateral aid to Nicaragua frozen if Nicaragua does not resolve within 90 days—which expires in June—the cases of 125 U.S. citizens who have made claims on 258 properties.

According to Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal, Helms has tried to get the amendment approved without taking into account that the Confiscation Quantification Office (OCI) has been operating for nearly two years.

"I do not accept pressure from anyone," Chamorro said upon her return from Costa Rica. "Of course, there are homes still to be returned, and I call on those who have them to return them," she added.

It Will Affect Remittances

A diplomatic source in Washington told BARRICADA that if this law comes into effect, "apparently it will affect the remittances that are about to be released covering 1994 and future ones in 1995."

Deputy Danilo Aguirre said that the seriousness of this affair will in part be conditioned by the internal capacity the government shows to resolve the property issue. According to him, the Sandinist Front must propose to the Sandinist wing in the National Assembly an overall solution to these claims.

Minister Leal said that the Helms amendment "is not applicable in the case of Nicaragua," because the Chamorro government is implementing a mechanism provided for in this U.S. law initiative. Helms insists Nicaragua has not shown any progress and cited as an example some 28 state properties that have not been returned to U.S. citizens. The foreign minister said that these are 22 properties, and he said that these will be dealt with as soon as possible by the OCI, created to deal with 5,200 expropriation claims.

The U.S. Wants To See Steps

According to Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, this total had a variable number of U.S. citizens between 112 and 120. He described the figure, which at one point surpassed 400, as "a moving target," because it included Nicaraguan citizens who became naturalized U.S. citizens after their property was confiscated. According to

Minister Leal these new U.S. citizens count as Nicaraguans because this is what international law says. Furthermore "their properties were properly confiscated according to Decrees No. 3 and 38 and they will not be indemnified," Pereira said.

The diplomatic source in Washington said that "what is most important for the majority in Congress is that the Nicaraguan Government take steps toward solving the cases of properties claimed by U.S. citizens."

Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, spoke in similar terms during his visit to Nicaragua: "We hope Nicaragua continues to show progress, resolving every possible case, in the least amount of time."

U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua John Maisto has accepted that the Chamorro government has made progress in the matter, but also insisted that Chamorro must "continue to show progress."

The source stressed that the U.S. Congress would like to see solutions "especially dealing with properties still in the hands of the state and occupied by government officials or by the state itself."

Regarding the possibility that the amendment to the Economic Power Act of 1956 be approved by the U.S. Congress, the source was of the opinion that "for most in Washington, Helms' standards are not reasonable. The overriding spirit here is that there has been progress (in Nicaragua)."

Nicaragua, according to Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal, "is the only country in the world with problems of such magnitude with the United States."

Guzman Leaves for U.S. To Discuss Property Return

PA1105223094 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 May 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Luis Humberto Guzman, president of the Nicaraguan Parliament, traveled today to the United States to investigate the background of a report [as heard] on property and its effects in Nicaragua. Before leaving for Washington, the head of parliament said that he will discuss the issue of Nicaragua's foreign debt, inasmuch as it is the National Assembly's duty to make some contribution to this effort.

[Begin Guzman recording, in progress] ...having an effect in international financial circles, trying to obtain special treatment for the country. [end recording]

Guzman did not say with whom he will meet in Washington, adding he will also discuss the issue of property and the background of a law promoted by Senators (?Martinez and Helms) concerning properties owned by U.S. citizens in several countries, including Nicaragua.

[Begin Guzman recording] With regard to this measure, we want to see what the National Assembly can do to contribute to finding a solution to this problem. [end recording]

Guzman said that it is urgent to solve the problem of the properties. A recent government report disclosed that 37 percent of the demands by 125 U.S. citizens with 412 properties had been resolved.

Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais has also said that an important aspect is that a procedure is functioning in Nicaragua and the U.S. Government has approved it.

[Begin Pallais recording] This process is under way, seeking to solve all cases as soon as possible. [end recording]

Panama

Perez Balladares Views U.S. Military Presence

PA1105170494 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone interview with presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares in Panama City by Jacobo Zabludovsky; from the "24 Hours" newscast on 10 May—live or recorded]

[Text] [Zabludovsky] Presidential elections were held last Sunday in the Republic of Panama. The winner of the elections was Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares, who is in Panama City. Good evening, Dr. Perez Balladares.

[Perez] Good evening.

[Zabludovsky] How do you feel after the elections?

[Perez] Obviously, I am quite satisfied. I think this has been an extraordinary civic process by the Panamanian people. I greatly appreciate the massive support received through votes. Also, I am greatly appreciative of my adversaries, because we managed to conduct an extraordinary campaign with a high level of civic-mindedness and specific proposals. I am very proud—truly very proud—of the Panamanians and of the level of culture and political development we have demonstrated in this campaign of 1994.

[Zabludovsky] Everyone is asking the question: Who is Dr. Perez Balladares?

[Perez] I am an economist. I graduated in 1967, obtained a masters degree in economics in 1969, and a masters degree in finance in 1970. After that I was a banker for five years. I then joined the government of Omar Torrijos, where I served from 1976 until one year after his death until 1983—excuse me, 1982. I was finance and treasury minister. I was planning and economic policy minister. Since then I have been an active member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

[Zabludovsky] One of the topics that was raised by your enemies during the campaign was that there could be a rebirth of militarism with your victory in Panama.

[Perez] I think that, more than anything, that was an electoral attack, which has now ended. Many knew that was obviously false. First, all military regimes have been dismantled throughout not only the American continent, but also in Asia, Africa, everywhere. The justification that was used for its existence, the alleged retaining wall to curb the progress of what the United States identified as its enemies—international communism—has vanished. Now democracy is in vogue, and this is something we applaud.

The same thing is happening in Panama. Because of international geopolitical conditions, and because of domestic conditions, there cannot be a return to militarism. This is so true that today I dare say the next foreign minister of my government will be Gabriel Lewis Galindo, a man who, from the United States, strongly opposed the former military regime. Therefore, there can hardly be any threat of a return to the past.

[Zabludovsky] What type of government will you try to promote in your first 100 days?

[Perez] We have based all of our government proposals, our entire campaign, and all of our efforts on achieving the reconciliation of Panamanian society. This society was deeply divided during the final years of the military government and by the invasion. We have to achieve this, and we must take specific steps. This cannot remain a mere electoral pledge or an expression of goodwill. I have to dedicate myself to building on this pledge in the first 100 days, striving to achieve a government of national consensus and unity, to enable Panama to enter the 21st century as a united country and as a country of equal opportunity. Obviously, I must work to ensure this at a later date, but the first thing is to make sure that everyone perceives us as a government of unity, as a government disposed to making the best efforts with the best men and women available in order that this can be our goal within the next five years.

[Zabludovsky] For nearly 100 years, one of the most controversial topics in Panama has been the U.S. military presence there. A poll was conducted and many people believe the U.S. military should remain. What is your view on this?

[Perez] Let me clear up something first. What we have are polls, and it has been proven that polls in Panama somehow are not totally reliable, as was shown in the recent elections. What does exist is a statement by many who have been polled in the sense that there is a feeling of apprehension, of fear perhaps, regarding the possible departure of the U.S. military from Panama.

We cannot give into this fear, which in the majority of cases is unfounded, because we Panamanians have not only the capability but also the willingness to oversee the administration of the Panama Canal. Most of these fears respond to things that the people themselves do not understand, perhaps because of a certain degree on evil within some people who have instilled this in the people's minds. For example, some say that if the North Americans leave, the U.S. dollar will leave. These are two completely different things, and yet, the man on the street does not understand that the U.S. dollar is circulating on the street, not because of the U.S. presence here, but because it is our sovereign decision to have this currency circulating in Panama, which we Panamanians earn with our sale of services and goods abroad.

The presence of U.S. military bases in Panama is defined in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. They clearly state that by 31 December 1999, there should not be one single U.S. soldier in Panama. The presence of bases in any part of the world by any foreign power cannot be justified by economic issues. Military bases exist in any part of the world when there is a military interest in protection or aggression [as heard]. I do not think this is the case in Panama. The historic justification for the existence or presence of military bases in Panama, which was to defend the interoceanic waterway when the U.S. strategic weapon was the Navy, has disappeared. Nor is the Panama Canal threatened. In turn, we Panamanians do not see any reason from a military standpoint for there to be bases in Panama, at least not with the justifications used in the past.

If there is any other reason for a small or medium-sized U.S. military presence in Panama, the United States would have to say what it is and propose it to the Panamanians. Then we would have to look at our national interests, strictly from a security and military viewpoint. The positive or negative consequences of the permanence of U.S. troops in Panama because of economic issues is not a basis for such a decision. That is something altogether different, and it cannot be the fundamental criterion for agreeing to or opposing a U.S. military presence in Panama.

Let us suppose there is an additional interest on the part of the United States to maintain some presence in Panama. I can think, for example, of let us say the struggle against drug trafficking. If there is an interest on the part of the United States in this, then we would have to see what the terms and conditions are. Anything that might be agreed upon would then have to be submitted to a national referendum, because that is not a decision that can be made exclusively by the executive or legislative branch. It would have to be subjected to a referendum by the Panamanian people.

Perez Balladares Proclaimed Election Victor

PA1205024894 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0120 GMT 12 May 94

[Document read by Roberto Lombana, president of the National Vote-Counting Board, at the ceremony to proclaim the winner of the 8 May Panamanian presidential elections at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] I am here to present this document, which states the following:

Republic of Panama, general elections of 1994. The Board of Directors of the National Vote-Counting Board, in full use of its powers. Whereas:

On Sunday, 8 May 1994, general elections were held to elect the president and vice presidents of the Republic of Panama for the 1994-1999 term.

The National Vote-Counting Board, meeting by its own right and having fulfilled the legal and obligatory requirements, has counted all of the electoral circuit vote tally sheets.

Resolves:

To establish in the records that the Panamanian people have elected the following citizens as president and vice presidents: president—Ernesto Perez Balladares; first vice president—Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque; second vice president—Felipe Alejandro Virzi Lopez.

Certified and signed in Panama City on 11 May 1994. It bears my signature and that of my eight colleagues. Receive this, Dr. Balladares. [applause]

Perez Balladares Responds to Proclamation

PA1205034194 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 0123 GMT 12 May 94

[Speech by President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares on the occasion of being officially proclaimed the winner of the 8 May presidential elections at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Members of the National Vote-Counting Board, magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal, candidates here with us this evening, ladies and gentlemen:

Regardless of who has been the protagonist, Panama's democracy and the people of Panama very much wanted an event such as today's, an event in which a group of trustworthy citizens have clearly confirmed the verdict of the polls.

In Panama, thanks to men and women like you, the democratic consolidation process, which in other regions takes decades, has been accomplished in a very short period of time and has been built on very solid bases. This is the conclusion of an effort that has earned the praise of the foreign media and has been a surprise for some of our own fellow citizens.

Disputes, recriminations, confrontations, and arguments are now behind us, and behind us are also, let's hope forever, political campaigns stained by violence and elections blemished by doubts.

The country began to change beginning early Monday morning, not because one or another candidate had secured the majority of the votes of the Panamanians, but because everybody accepted unaffectedly and like a gentleman the results of the previous day.

Those of us who have acquired the commitment of promoting reconciliation in the country, accept it with joy but calmly, enthusiastically but without any intention of boasting before others about this privilege from the voters.

I must also say, and let this be a public tribute of respect, that our adversaries exhibited the patriotic altruism and the political generosity of closing, on the elections night, the wounds that the political confrontation could have opened.

They also deserve our homage. [applause]

In January 1990, taking a step that at that time was not understood, I visited President Endara to express our dissatisfaction with some measures that had been adopted. I told him that I categorically would initiate an opposition to his government. He told me that during his mandate, a democratic opposition would enjoy broad guarantees.

Today I must acknowledge, very sincerely, that I opposed his government and that President Endara showed respect for the opposition. This acknowledgment is necessary today because all of us have witnessed his effort to pave the road to an orderly transfer of power.

I cannot mention all the persons who made the democratic fiesta we now enjoy possible. But it would be unfair of me to fail to point out the exemplary behavior of the Public Force, yesterday arbiter of politics, and now the guarantor of constitutionality. The Justice and Peace Commission and the electoral delegates deserve the same public admiration. The respect they earned and the impartiality they exhibited were enough to quench infrequent outbreaks of violence and to guarantee to the citizens that this electoral struggle would see only three weapons: ideas, enthusiasm, and votes.

Since all the citizens, regardless of age or sex, were the true heroes of this democratic event, I want to conclude my statement by paying homage of respect and admiration to the three forefathers who, to the satisfaction and pride of everybody, comprise, and let us hope, will continue to comprise, the Electoral Tribunal. [applause]

They made us get used to listening to a song whose words are now a beautiful truth: We are the builders of the fatherland!

Thank you! [applause]

Future Foreign Minister, Others Accept Nominations

PA1105220294 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 May 94 p 1

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] As announced by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on Sunday, industrialist Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Christian Democratic Legislator Jose Antonio Sossa, and cattle rancher Carlos Sousa Lennox have accepted cabinet positions in the administration of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares. This has been confirmed by the nominees themselves.

Lewis Galindo, who will be the foreign minister as of 1 September, was Panama's ambassador to the United States in 1977 when the Torrijos-Carter Canal Treaties were signed. He opposed the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from 1987 to 1989. The new foreign minister is also the brother of Samuel Lewis Galindo, presidential candidate for Solidarity Party who came in next to last in Sunday's election.

Sossa, who accepted the post of attorney general, is a founding member of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), a traditional and staunch adversary of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party].

Sousa Lennox, linked to the ruling Arnulfist Party and former president of the National Association of Cattlemen (Anagan), will be the minister of agricultural development (Mida).

Research by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA disclosed on Sunday as an exclusive report said that Perez Balladares has offered the Public Health Ministry to Carlos Garcia de Paredes, Raul (Baby) Arango Gasteazoro will hold the Ministry of the Presidency, Mitchel Doens will be the Ministry of Government and Justice, and Felix Gonzalez Santizo will be the minister of commerce and industries.

The Education Ministry has been offered to Stanley Muschett, rector of the Santa Maria La Antigua University (USMA) and chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission.

According to Perez Balladares, the other ministries will be held by PRD members, while Comptroller General Jose Chen Barria—also from the PDC—might be ratified in his post.

Arnulfista Party Turns Down Offer of Ministries

PA1205035894 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0304 GMT 12 May 94

[Statement by Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, presidential candidate of the Arnulfista Party in the 8 May presidential elections, in Panama City on 11 May—recorded]

[Text] Good evening, dear reporters. This evening, I gathered the Arnulfista Party's National Directorate and Consultative Board to discuss with them the offer made to me by Dr. Ernesto Perez Balladares of two cabinet ministries in his administration.

The National Directorate and Consultative Board have issued the following statement in response to the offer made to the Arnulfista Party. It is a unanimous decision, and it states:

The National Directorate and Consultative Board of the Arnulfista Party, faithful to the doctrine and thinking of Dr. Arnulfo Arias, categorically and definitively reject the proposal to occupy ministries in the next administration.

The Arnulfista Party's ever upright position will be to defend, to the utmost consequences, the freedom and democracy the Panamanian people are enjoying today under the leadership and guarantees of an Arnulfista administration.

I reiterate that our glorious party's position will be to carry out a clear, constructive, and patriotic opposition, thus giving content and solidity to the authentic democracy for which the civic-minded fought and of which we are the most legitimate guardians. [applause]

Correction to Perez Balladares on U.S., Cuba Relations

PA1105192994

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Comments on Ties With U.S., Cuba," published in the 10 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 34-35:

Page 35, column one, paragraph seven, only sentence, make read...was delaying the agrement until after the...(correcting queried phrase)

Argentina

Cavallo Says Chile Ready To Join Mercosur

PY1105180394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1043 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Santiago, 11 May (NA)—Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said here that Chile will meet the requirements to join Mercosur [Common Market of the South] as of January 1995.

Cavallo voiced his desire that Chile join Mercosur, together with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, as of the first day of next year, when the common foreign tariff will be established by the member countries.

Cavallo believes Chile is "much closer to a trade agreement than four years ago," when President Patricio Aylwin's government was seriously against an integration process.

The Argentine minister made this statement yesterday during the seminar "The Southern Cone Dialogue," held in this city and attended by ministers and officials of countries of the region.

The Argentine official said Chile "can no longer doubt the Argentine stabilization process," that turned out to be even "more effective" than the one implemented in Chile, which is currently governed by Christian Democrat Eduardo Frei.

Regarding Brazil, Cavallo mentioned a lack of "political decision" to implement reforms like the Argentine convertibility plan, because "growth can only be attained with stability."

Moreover, he said that Chile must recognize the progress made by Argentina in the field of the deregulation, infrastructure, and free trade rules that were one of the obstacles for a trade agreement.

"Chile should prefer Mercosur to NAFTA," said Cavallo, referring to the Chilean Government's intention to join NAFTA.

Today Cavallo is scheduled to visit the Mining Fair where more than 1,000 leading companies in the world in the mining field will exhibit their goods.

He will visit the fair accompanied by Mining Secretary Eduardo Maza and Jorge Escobar, the former San Juan governor and current national deputy, who accompanied Cavallo to Chile.

The governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela will exhibit at the fair.

Cavallo will later meet with Chilean President Eduardo Frei, with whom he will discuss joint economic projects. Cavallo and Frei will thoroughly assess the possibility of Chile joining Mercosur during the first meeting between the new Chilean president and a top ranking Argentine Government official.

Cavallo Clarifies Remarks

PY1105233294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1753 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Santiago, 11 May (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that Chile had not received a formal proposal to join Mercosur [Common Market of the South], although the need to make concrete progress in the creation of a free trade zone between the countries was discussed.

Cavallo thus minimized the impact of the remarks he made on 9 May [as received], in which he emphasized that Chile "has all the conditions for joining" Mercosur.

Cavallo's proposal thus admits free trade zone negotiations by Mercosur, on one hand, and Chile on the other.

The finance minister admitted that it would be difficult for Chile "to join Mercosur, as it would probably introduce uncertainty into the tariff issue, an area in which Chile has been very successful with its own policies."

Cavallo said that during the meeting with his Chilean counterpart Eduardo Aninat he discussed "the real progress in trade and in all other kinds of relations between Argentina and the other member countries of Mercosur."

Cavallo said that free trade negotiations might be the most suitable path, but the two countries are also working on others, including "our geographical integration through the Andean passes, feasibility studies for transport projects, energy integration projects, and improvement in our countries' investment climates."

Regarding the latter, Cavallo said that an agreement might be reached with the signing of a mutual investment protection treaty which would eliminate current obstacles.

During a news conference with Chilean journalists, Cavallo ardently defended the scheme of a fixed foreign exchange rate, a mechanism that was dropped by Chile because of the poor results obtained.

He stressed that "Argentina does not have a single currency requirement" but a free choice system, adding that this assures us that governments "will not devaluate" the peso.

Cavallo also reiterated that in 1994 the country will have an inflation rate of "3 percent or less," and forecast that Argentina will close the year with a significant economic growth rate.

Asked whether some social groups are paying the price for the adjustment, Cavallo said that social explosions such as the one in Santiago de Estero were made "against

corruption and bad provincial administrations, and not against the convertibility plan."

"People have not reacted against the economic plan because they realize the benefits of stability and growth," the minister added.

Cavallo said that the proof that Argentina offers favorable conditions is the fact that "more than 200,000 foreigners" had emigrated to the country in the past few years.

The minister added that public support was evident in the 1991, 1993, and 10 April 1994 elections.

Cavallo concluded by saying that the Justicialist Party will again win the presidential election in 1995.

Ω Effective Government Response to Agriculture Advocated

94P20741

[Editorial Report] A weekly column in the Buenos Aires daily LA NACION has repeatedly called attention to the competitiveness crisis in Argentine agriculture. According to an editorial in the 26 March edition of the same daily, "history clearly shows" that the "belligerence of [those engaged in] agriculture does nothing to promote sociopolitical stability or harmony," reminding the government at all levels that "it still has the time and tools available to respond" to the crisis.

"The increasingly surly statements" by organizations representing Argentine agriculture and the "emergence of new movements with even more vehement protests" are a "clear sign" that many in the farming industry think that the difficulties they are suffering are "neither fully understood nor addressed by current economic policy," continued the LA NACION editorial.

"It was obvious from the beginning," explained the editorial, "that the rules of the game on which the stabilization of the currency is based" would call for a restructuring of the agriculture industry, and that this restructuring would demand, "at the very least," adequate financing and tax relief, halting the erosion in the productive capacity of the industry, two requirements, which were "never met."

Designed to better represent smaller producers represented neither provincially nor nationally, the newly created Buenos Aires Agriculture Front (FAB), according to the editorial, has vowed to "denounce the restructuring proposed by the government," saying it is "valid only for powerful industries."

Argentine Rural Society (SRA) First Vice President Enrique Crotto is not afraid of foreign competition, reported the 12 March Buenos Aires daily LA PRENSA, "even from countries that subsidize" their products, as long as Argentine producers have access to the same "tools" as their competition, such as a long-range agriculture policy, comparable tax burdens, and internationally competitive credit, "none of which is within our reach." According to Crotto, the proposed wealth tax is equivalent to the former assets tax under another name and, although the government-backed Rural Mortgage Securities (CHR) sounded good when they were announced, no one seems to be able to explain why so few loans have been granted, in spite of all the promises.

Argentine Rural Confederations (CRA) head Manuel Cabanellas has complained about the lack of regularly scheduled meetings of the National Agriculture Council (CNA), presided over by Secretary of Agriculture Felipe Sola, reported the 12 March LA NACION. The industry's four main organizations—SRA, CRA, Argentine Agrarian Federation (FAA), and the Agricultural-Livestock Intercooperative Confederation (Coninagro)—with representatives on the council, "consider it to be the natural forum" to address problems that plague the industry, such as indebtedness, high production costs, low international prices, the VAT (value-added tax), and the proposed wealth tax.

According to the same 12 March edition of LA NACION, a recent report put out by Coninagro, entitled "The Cost of Stability," contended that the agriculture industry is making "extreme sacrifices" in the name of stability, while others, such as the automobile industry, enjoy trade protection.

LA NACION of 5 March pointed to the decline in economic activity in the regional economies, which to a great extent revolve around agriculture. For that reason, continues the daily, it is no wonder the Confederation of Buenos Aires and the Pampa Rural Associations (Carbap), a grouping of 107 farming societies from the two provinces with approximately 34,000 members, has warned that it will "take to the streets," if necessary, to achieve the solutions the industry requires. The 19 March LA NACION added that the agriculture industry is "dusting off" threats of future protests. FAA President Humberto Volando at the Chacra Expo said that both the leadership and the producers in Coninagro, Carbap, and the FAA were talking about organizing a "large national protest" before the end of the year.

"We're beginning to get mad," declared Eduardo de Zavalia, head of the Argentine Rural Society (SRA). On 31 May 1993, the SRA presented the government with a "Plan of Assistance for Restructuring the Argentine Agriculture Industry," reports the 26 March LA NACION. The SRA document warned about the crisis in the industry and proposed specific measures to stimulate credit, financing, production, and trade expansion, which the organization felt would facilitate restructuring. Recently, however, the SRA has "toughened" its stance, heretofore more supportive of government economic policy. The organization released a public statement criticizing the government for its "incomplete, late, and clearly inadequate" responses, reflecting a "lack of understanding" of the "seriousness" and "urgency" with

which the industry's problems must be addressed (LA PRENSA, 23 March). The document also pointed to the "absence of valid alternatives," leaving farmers and ranchers increasingly "discouraged and angry, their just demands ignored, while special programs for other industries are implemented."

Correction to Interior Minister Views Corruption

PY1105122494

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Interior Minister Views Elimination of Corruption," published in the 11 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 27:

Column one, paragraph two, sentence two, make read... must not only end corruption it must ...(providing dropped word "end")

Bolivia

Army Considers Declaring Chapare 'Military Zone'

PY1105205394 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 30 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] La Paz—The Armed Forces general staff is assessing a series of state intelligence and security reports suggesting that Chapare, in Cochabamba Department, be declared a "military zone," taking into account that a series of factors in the region could place the country's political and social stability at stake.

The reports state that the presence of individuals linked to terrorism has been detected in this tropical region of Cochabamba. It is even suspected that they may have some relationship with subversive groups operating in Peru, also precisely in coca production areas, such as Upper Huallaga, which has characteristics similar to those of Chapare.

The reports mention, moreover, that the presence of drug traffickers that have come into Bolivia from Colombia has been detected. These traffickers are allegedly inciting the peasants to oppose the implementation of programs to eradicate surplus coca plantations, through demonstrations that recently almost resulted in violent clashes.

According to the intelligence report submitted to the Armed Forces high command suggesting that Chapare be declared a military zone, these and other factors detected in the area represent a worrisome prospect. National institutions must work to prevent the unleashing of conflict that could place internal security and the country's sociopolitical stability at stake.

Moreover, military sources who asked not to be identified stated that high-ranking government echelons are concerned over the existence of acts of sabotage against the alternative development program. This seriously affects the country as a whole regarding the fulfillment of bilateral agreements with the United States.

The Bolivian and U.S. Governments have reached drug enforcement agreements, including the gradual elimination of surplus coca plantations, in which large sums of money have been earmarked for alternative development programs, interdiction actions against drug trafficking, and aid to help maintain Bolivia's balance of payments.

President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada recently voiced his concern over the presence of domestic disturbance factors in some regions of the country when he referred to the possibility of "narco-guerrilla" groups appearing in the country and warned of the need to look into this possibility more carefully.

Sanchez de Lozada said that there are signs of underlying violence in Chapare, and that if adequate and timely preventive measures are not taken the region could become a territory occupied by international drug cartels or even "narco-guerrillas."

The president of the Republic's concern also reached Congress, where it was stated that the possibility of violent actions promoted by drug traffickers and terrorists in Chapare "is real," according to recent comments by Cochabamba Deputy Hector Cartagena, of the UCS [Solidarity Civic Union].

Military sources consulted by LOS TIEMPOS in La Paz stated that the mentioned reports are being carefully assessed in order to reach a specific institutional evaluation, but that in any case it is up to President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, in his capacity as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to make the decision regarding the possibility of declaring Chapare, in Cochabamba, a "military zone."

Indigenous Groups To Participate in Development Policies

PY1105215094 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 May 94

[Excerpt] The indigenous groups living in the eastern part of Bolivia will for the first time have an opportunity to participate in planning policies for the development of their people, who number approximately 500,000. A consultative group that groups together all of the grassroots indigenous organizations represented in the Confederation of Indigenous People of Eastern Bolivia has been created.

The consultative group will meet every so often with the Ethnic Affairs Secretariat to discuss and approve programs. It is worth noting that the secretariat respects the indigenous peoples' organizational structure, which is divided into three groups: a people's directorate, an intermediate organization, and the grassroots, with which the dialogue must be held through the mechanisms established for that purpose. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Army Surrounds Police Headquarters in Brasilia

PY1105115094 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by correspondent Walter Lima from the Federal Police headquarters in Brasilia—live]

[Text] Today at dawn, the Army surrounded the Federal Police [PF] headquarters in Brasilia. The Army surrounded the perimeter of the Federal Police installations at about 0100 today. The Army surrounded the PF headquarters in the Southern Autarky [State autonomous organizations] block of Brasilia, the PF regional office at the southern police block, and the PF office at the Justice Ministry, strategically stationing men armed with rifles and submachine guns and accompanied by German shepherds.

The area here in the Southern Autarky sector is isolated. Both drivers and pedestrians must identify themselves if they want to go through any of the isolation cordons. Traffic has been diverted from the area.

The situation here is so far apparently calm. There is great expectation over the arrival of the PF members on strike. There are nearly 1,000 soldiers stationed here in the PF headquarters. A short while ago reinforcements arrived in two trucks and a jeep.

We will have more information from the Southern Autarky block where Army troops surrounded the perimeter of the PF headquarters in Brasilia.

Shooting Incident Reported at Police Building

PY1105125594 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by correspondent Walter Lima from the Southern Autarky Block in Brasilia—live]

[Text] The Army continues barricading the Federal Police headquarters in Brasilia. The atmosphere here in the Southern Autarky Block, next to the Federal Police headquarters building, is getting tense because Federal Police personnel are starting to arrive and are finding that about 1,000 military troops have been occupying the area since 0100.

Until now the only incident that has been reported occurred at about 0300, when a car carrying two men tried to break through one of the barricades and shooting ensued.

Vehicle traffic is under the control of the military police and traffic department inspectors. This is also the case near the Federal Police Regional Superintendency in the Southern Police Sector. Security personnel at the Justice Ministry building on the Ministries Esplanade have been reinforced by military personnel.

Federal Police personnel are now starting to arrive at the Southern Autarky Block. They are driving through, looking around and going to their respective blocks.

German shepherds and soldiers armed with rifles, machine guns, and tear gas are strategically located. Those who want to enter the Federal Police building to work must identify themselves before entering the building which is completely surrounded by Army troops.

Sao Paulo Federal Police Building Surrounded

PY1105123294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1122 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 11 May (EFE)—Acting on the orders of President Itamar Franco, the Brazilian Army today occupied the headquarters of the Federal Police [PF] in Brasilia and Sao Paulo, seeking to end the strike the police has been observing for the past 51 days.

The Brazilian Government yesterday warned the PF that it would retaliate against the PF if it continues its strike, which was declared illegal because it affects basic services like the issuance of passports and drug enforcement.

After meeting with the military ministers, President Itamar Franco yesterday afternoon ordered the Army to intervene. This took place today at dawn when the two main PF buildings in the country were taken over.

A government spokesman has said the Armed Forces were summoned by the president "to guarantee national security."

President Evaluates Federal Police Crisis

PY1105180594 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Alexandre Garcia, from Brasilia]

[Text] President Itamar Franco has said that the objective of public service is to serve the people—not to make the lives of the Brazilian people even more difficult. The final straw was yesterday's takeover of the public building that houses the Federal Police headquarters in Brasilia.

Strategic Affairs Secretary Mario Flores said that the Army was summoned because public disorder is unacceptable. The Army is using heavy weapons and equipment to discourage any resistance from the strikers, who were armed. Resistance might have serious consequences.

A short time ago, the president of the National Federation of Federal Policemen said the strikers will return their arms to the government to prove the peaceful nature of the strike.

The government claims the Army was summoned to guarantee constitutional rights and to prevent indiscipline, the taking over of public buildings, armed strikes, and to guarantee the right to work.

President Franco is now meeting with Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena and with Flores to evaluate the situation and its developments.

Army Deploys Tanks in Brasilia; Coup Rumors 'Persistent'

PY1105204694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1910 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Brasilia, 11 May (EFE)—The Brazilian Army today deployed several tanks and trucks in the administrative zone of Brasilia shortly after taking over the Federal Police [PF] headquarters in Brasilia and Sao Paulo, at the request of President Itamar Franco, to put an end to a 53-day police strike.

According to EFE reporters, after touring the Ministries Esplanade area—where Planalto Palace, congressional buildings, and the Supreme Court building are located—the military vehicles were parked in the vicinity of the cathedral.

A military deployment like today's has not taken place in Brasilia since the time of the military regime (1964-1985), when the Army used to deploy its tanks to intimidate government opponents.

The 7,000 PF personnel have been on strike to demand a salary increase, but their negotiations with the government have failed.

Union leader Jair Meneguelli—president of the Sole Workers Center (CUT, leftist), to which the National Federation of Police Unions is affiliated—has demanded that the government resume negotiations.

Meneguelli declined to comment on persistent rumors circulating in Brasilia that Franco, who last night ordered the military intervention in police headquarters, is promoting an institutional coup similar to the one engineered by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori in 1992.

Army Insubordination Noted; Strike Leader Rejects Violence

PY1105210494 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 2015 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] High-ranking Army officers who are serving in the central barracks of Brasilia have been worrying all day about the adverse reaction of troops who refused to obey the orders of President Itamar Franco and Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena to intervene in the Federal Police [PF] strike. Commenting on the low PF salaries, an Army officer asked: How can we intervene in the PF strike if they are demanding the same rights that we have for some time been struggling for?

PF strike leader Francisco Carlos Garisto, who is an expert in drug enforcement and the president of the Federal Policemen National Federation, today commented on the Army's intervention in the strike. He rejected the possibility of clashes, but asserted that the PF will not give a single inch.

Army 'Displays' Helicopters; Congress Continues Work

PY1105221094 Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 2021 GMT 11 May 94

[Telephone report by reporter Gianoni Mosquera in Brasilia—live]

[Excerpt] [Mosquera] Helicopter maneuvers continue here over Tres Poderes Square and the Ministries Esplanade. The government is displaying its power to deter any possible reaction by the Federal Police strikers. Four more helicopters are approaching the square; we can hear the noise they are making. They were overflying the National Congress esplanade and the northern area of the city, and are now heading for the Ministries Esplanade. The military sector and the government are carrying out these displays. These are Army Puma helicopters.

[Station announcer] This is not common, is it, Gianoni?

[Mosquera] No, normally they are only used in parades and military celebrations. Apparently the government is deploying all these forces to show that it will not accept any sort of challenge from those who are staging the strike. The government is determined to have absolute control in case anything happens.

As I reported a few minutes ago, troops have been deployed here to replace those who had been stationed near Tres Poderes Square.

[Announcer] Can you see any movement of federal policemen or landless farmers, or will demonstrations occur later?

[Mosquera] Only a few tourists, and some members of the military police, can be seen. Civilian police and Federal Police members can no longer be seen. No demonstrators can be seen here, near Tres Poderes Square.

[Announcer] What are reactions inside Congress? Despite having been on the streets, have you had the chance to hear comments from the congressmen?

[Mosquera] Well, most congressmen are wondering whether the government isn't exaggerating in this case.

[Announcer] We were listening to an interview inside Congress when the noise of helicopters could suddenly be heard. It attracted the attention of all who were in the building.

[Mosquera] Exactly, all the journalists ran outside to see what was taking place in the square behind Congress

where the national flag is located, with Planalto Palace at its left and the Federal Supreme Court to the right.

[Announcer] Is Ricardo Fiuza's case still being analyzed inside Congress? A few minutes ago we could see on the internal television circuit that someone was defending Fiuza.

[Mosquera] Yes. We are now nearing the Green Hall, and can see that Deputy Fiuza is now addressing the plenary session. [passage omitted]

Franco Outlines Government Position on Crisis

PY1205000194 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Renata Verissimo in Brasilia]

[Text] Army military police troops early this morning occupied the Federal Police [PF] superintendency buildings in Brasilia and Sao Paulo. Presidential spokesman Fernando Costa stated that the action coordinated by the Army is designed to stop the abuses being committed during the 52-day strike by PF policemen.

President Itamar Franco stated that the Army's occupation will not end until PF policemen return to work. He said the government is only seeking to guarantee basic services, such as the issuance of passports and the guarding of airports and border areas.

Franco said the government will not permit acts of disrespect against citizens, and emphasized that everything is being done in accordance with the Constitution. He said:

[Begin Franco recording] I can tell you that this is a government that upholds dialogue, a democratic government that only called out the Armed Forces to preserve order. It is unacceptable for them to have used fireworks and to have prevented the PF director from entering the building. Those who are willing to strike may do so, but they have to do it in an orderly fashion, in accordance with the Constitution and the laws. All the executive branch has done is to enforce the Constitution and the laws, and it will continue to do so. [end recording]

Franco made it clear that this is not an act of intervention, but an action taken by the government to guarantee the people's right to travel freely. He does not believe the government will lose face as a result of its decision to intervene in the PF. He said:

[Begin Franco recording] I believe the government will not lose face for taking side with the people, whose right to travel freely is being curtailed. Thus I believe the government is, in this case, defending the people. [end recording]

The decision to intervene in the PF was made last night during a meeting held by Franco with the military ministers, the justice minister, the federal administration minister, and the PF director.

Costa reported that the operation began in Brasilia at 0140, and that President Franco was kept abreast of developments by General Fernando Cardoso, chief of the military household.

Government Issues Statement on Army Action

PY1205002694 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Luiz Augusto Mendonca from Planalto Palace]

[Text] President Itamar Franco has ordered presidential spokesman Fernando Costa to release the following statement to the press:

First, that the president of the Republic is closely following all of the actions taken by the Army Ministry aimed at preserving public order and the Constitution;

Second, that President Franco remains in close contact with the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and of the federal Senate, who have lent him their full support and solidarity for the measures he has taken;

Third, that the National Defense Committee of the Chamber of Deputies has requested that Justice Minister Alexandre Dupeyrat brief its members on the measures taken by the government regarding the Federal Police strike.

Costa said the president immediately responded to the request, and ordered Dupeyrat to appear before the committee to answer all of their questions.

Dupeyrat is now at Planalto Palace reporting to President Franco about his briefing before the National Defense Committee.

Finally, Costa reported that President Franco is aware of all the actions planned to preserve order and the Constitution.

Commenting on this afternoon's helicopter airlift of armed Army military personnel to Tres Poderes Square, Costa said this action was planned during yesterday's meeting between the president of the Republic with the military ministers, and that this is a combat training exercise by the Army Ministry.

Castro Arrives in Salvador, Meets Bahia Governor

PY1205035794 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0324 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro is having dinner with the current Bahia governor and with former Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes. Fidel Castro was returning to Cuba after attending Nelson Mandela's installation in South Africa, and decided to make a stopover in Salvador.

Since very early, a strict security regime had been organized at the Salvador Air Force base to welcome

Cuban President Fidel Castro. Members of the Air Force and of the Federal Police cordoned off the landing strip and allowed only members of the welcoming delegation to enter. President Fidel Castro arrived at the Air Force base in the middle of the night on board a Cuban Airline plane that was returning from South Africa, where he attended Nelson Mandela's installation.

Fidel Castro was welcomed by Bahia Governor Antonio Imbassahy and Salvador Mayor Lidice da Matta.

It still has not been reported how long President Castro will stay in Salvador, or his agenda for the visit.

Colombia

Government Lifts State of Internal Disturbance

PA1105185294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1745 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 11 May (DPA)—The government today lifted the state of internal disturbance it decreed on 1 May to prevent the release from prison of some 840 inmates charged with drug trafficking, subversion, and kidnapping. The state of internal disturbance was decreed at that time because the arraignment deadline for suspected criminals was about to expire.

Different political sectors welcomed the exceptional measure, which was expected to last only 10 days, although they asked for reforms in the judicial codes so the government would not have to resort to this mechanism to prevent the release of accused criminals.

Although it lifted the state of internal disturbance, the government extended for another 90 days the judicial emergency decreed under the exceptional measure for the purpose of extending the deadline to allow prosecutors to gather evidence against the defendants or to arraign them.

The lawyers for the 840 defendants affected by the measure criticized the government, noting that if the Prosecutor General's Office was unable to prove the guilt of their clients in the time allotted, their continued detention was a "violation of their human rights."

The extension of the processing deadline only affects those charged with terrorism, drug trafficking, and kidnapping—offenses that fall within the jurisdiction of "faceless" judges. The proceedings for individuals charged with other kinds of offenses are continuing along their normal course.

The state of internal disturbance is included in the 1991 Constitution, and, so far, it has been enforced three times—twice to prevent massive prison releases and once to cope with a violent terrorist offensive by communist guerrilla groups and drug trafficking mafias.

Emergency Decree Prevents Release of Inmates

PA1205021394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 94

[Report by Raul Gutierrez from the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] The Colombian Government decided to lift the state of internal disturbance decreed on 1 May. However, in order to prevent the release of an overwhelming number of inmates, the government also decided to extend the judicial emergency decree. The decree, which was signed by the president and all his cabinet ministers, stipulates that the emergency will be extended for an additional 90 days.

The government justifies the measure by indicating that the Prosecutor General's Office and the courts will now have sufficient time and resources to complete investigations still under way as well as to render a decision.

As of today, all circuit judges will be allowed to become involved in cases which up until now were restricted only to special judges. Ten days ago, 42 regional judges were responsible for handling 4,500 cases dealing with drug trafficking, terrorism, and kidnapping. This backlog prevented them from completing the cases within the period stipulated by law, the reason for which the judicial emergency was declared.

Foreign Minister Confirms Citizenship of Paul Ames

PA1205021294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 94

[From the "24 Hours Newscast"]

[Text] Paul Ames, the son of Maria del Rosario Casas who is under arrest in the United States charged with espionage, will be granted Colombian citizenship. This afternoon, Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin confirmed this in Manizales.

[Begin Sanin recording] Yesterday, we were visited by Maria Casas' mother. She explained her daughter's situation. We are studying her petition to reacquire citizenship and we have promised to grant it in the case of her son because he is an innocent person who has Colombian blood and we should all protect this young and innocent child. [end recording]

Police Director Outlines Probe of Cali Cartel Finances

PA1105220094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 94

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] As a result of the National Police's Operation Star, which entailed a thorough investigation of operations by the Cali Cartel and its international branches, the Cali Cartel's financial network will be unmasked in 15 days.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Major General Octavio Vargas, the National Police began fighting the Cali Cartel with its so-called Operation Star plan 15 days ago. What is Operation Star and where is the Cali Cartel being attacked?

[Vargas] Several drug trafficking organizations are being attacked. This strategy has been named Operation Star. We are working in cooperation with international organizations. Thus Operation Star involves various organizations. We are conducting operations related to the Cartel's financial and marketing networks here in Santa Fe de Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Barranquilla, and other cities nationwide. [end recording]

Ecuador

President Presides at Installation of Army Commander

PA1105215894 Paris AFP in Spanish 0114 GMT 10 May 94

[Text] Quito, 9 May (AFP)—General Victor Manuel Vayas was sworn in on Monday as new commander general of the Ecuadoran Army during a simple ceremony at the Presidential Palace and presided over by President Sixto Duran-Ballen. The ceremony was attended by the Military High Command and members of the cabinet. The outgoing commander general, Gen. Edmundo Luna, traveled to the United States last week where he is undergoing a medical checkup. The special military ceremony, with military honors and the usual speeches, is scheduled for Thursday.

Defense Minister Gen. Jose Gallardo said the appointment of a new commander will result in the normal changes of Army officers and reiterated that this will not represent a problem. The defense minister added that Gen. Luna was replaced because he had completed his time in the Army ranks. Vayas reiterated that there are no problems. He said all is well and that he wants to carry out his duties as established in the Constitution.

Peru

Shining Path Central Committee To 'Reorganize' Party

PY1105214194 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 2 May 94 p A6

[Excerpt] Analysts in the Peruvian security forces have concluded that the new Shining Path Central Committee, which is headed by dissident Alberto Ramirez Duran, also known as "Feliciano," has decided to reorganize the party to resume the so-called "people's war." The key steps toward this objectives are: a) resume "work with the masses" (especially in poor Lima neighborhoods); b) step up military actions; c) strengthen compartmentalization (cell organization) at all levels; and d) enhance underground security. The main objective is to move ahead with the so-called Sixth Grand Plan, whose implementation stopped suddenly in September 1992 when Abimael Guzman was captured.

In simple words, "Feliciano's" Shining Path faction intends to continue terrorist operations, openly disregarding Guzman's instructions to his followers, who have paid no attention so far, to cease violent actions in the quest for a peace agreement with the government.

Above and beyond the feverish fantasies of Shining Path's current leadership, the organization no longer poses an imminent threat for the Peruvian state. The analysts believe that Shining Path's decay is irreversible, although it is not going to be a short-term process. The experts indicated that the final battle against the terrorist organization is nowhere in sight yet, and it would be imprudent to lower the guard.

According to information this newspaper and Dincote [National Counterterrorism Directorate] gathered in Lima suburbs, for some time now the Shining Path has been infiltrating many shantytowns, settlements, cooperative urban developments, and the multitudinous Lima marketplaces. This infiltration is simply part of the "work with the masses" aimed at rebuilding cadres.

The murder of neighborhood leader and street vendor Benito Escalante Apaza on 29 April, near La Parada in the La Victoria district, was followed by the murder of national boxing champion Carlos Lavalle, a much-liked former leader of the Felix Raucarte Housing Cooperative in Ate-Vitarte. Dincote found out that Lavalle was killed by an Shining Path annihilation squad, and that Escalante Apaza used to be a leader of the Manuel Scorza settlement in San Juan de Lurigancho.

Dincote also found out that Shining Path militants killed two residents of the Santa Eulalia district (Huarochiri Province), near Chosica, early on 28 April. The victims were accused of stealing cattle. The police explained that terrorists seek to win the residents' trust and support by punishing criminals. [passage omitted]

'Feliciano' Takes Measures Against 'Possible Defeat'

PY1105213094 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 May 94 p A2

[Text] Oscar Alberto Ramirez Durand, who for some time now has been known as "President Feliciano" by those who currently reject Abimael Guzman Reynoso's leadership, has reportedly simultaneously ordered an increase in Shining Path actions in Lima and the transfer of Shining Path bases and refuge areas to border regions, so as to expedite the Shining Path's escape abroad in case of possible defeat.

This is according to an intelligence report based on statements made by Shining Path members who have resorted to the repentance law and who have been in contact with Ramirez Durand's lieutenants.

There are indications that a few months ago, "Feliciano" tried to meet with terrorist cadres operating as "roving" columns in Azangaro and Melgar, in Puno. There is also, however, testimony that Ramirez Durand is currently in the Gran Pajonal jungle area in Pasco. Another theory states that he is in Lima, personally heading the so-called "Neighborhood Class Movement" in Lima shantytowns.

The fact is that a so-called "Emergency Central Committee" has started to operate in Lima. This committee seeks to coordinate actions in seven areas in the outskirts of Lima, in the same places where the establishment of an "iron belt" was attempted, before Abimael Guzman's fall, to strangle and take over the city.

Ramirez Durand reportedly has a contingent of about 200 Shining Path members called the "People's Guerrilla Army." They are armed and the majority of them have been selected for their "loyalty" and for having shown cruelty and the capacity to strictly follow "orders." They are like robots, willing to sacrifice themselves for "Feliciano," who holds complete control over them. Only a few of them personally know him, however.

Intelligence souces report that "what they ignore is that Ramirez Durand will employ the 'sausage' policy against them: When he sees he has lost, he will leave them behind as cannon fodder to cover his withdrawal. They will be grouped in platoons to divert attention or to halt the Army's advance so that "Feliciano" can escape to the "refuge" areas.

Arrested Shining Path Leader Talks With Captors

PY1105132194 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 5 May 94 p A5

[Excerpt] Yesterday, a Huallaga Front patrol captured a Shining Path leader. He is providing valuable information about the whereabouts of the "Red Sea" terrorist battalion. This group was located in the Yanajanca valley and surrounding areas. The arrested terrorist is also giving information on the location of a hideout used by high-ranking Shining Path political and logistic commanders.

The wounded terrorist was identified as Ely Puertas Dominguez, alias comrade "John." Yesterday, his right arm was operated on for the third time. He is recovering well at the intensive care unit of the Tingo Maria hospital.

Puertas told EXPRESO that the "Red Sea" battalion has nearly 300 members, most of whom are civilians recruited by force. Each column is made up of 50 individuals. "There were 25 individuals in my column, but our ranks increased to 45 after we recruited inhabitants from a local settlement with death threats. Many of them were taken from their homes naked and by force."

Puertas revealed that there is a group of hired killers in the "Red Sea" battalion and that they are responsible for murdering the families of members who run away. The arrested terrorist said Shining Path members are hungry and thirsty because they do not have food.

Puertas said: "The fighters eat only yucca and bananas. Many of them are weak, sick with tuberculosis. They want to leave but are unable to do so because their lives and the lives of their families are at risk," [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Agriculture Minister Visits PRC, Mongolia

PY1205034394 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Agriculture and Fishing Minister Pedro Saravia has signed technical and cooperation agreements in the PRC. Saravia held working meetings with the Chinese agriculture vice minister, the head of the veterinary department, and the general director of the Chinese University of Agricultural Sciences.

The official made progress in the project to exchange special technological missions, strengthened links with wool companies, and discussed the export of various industrial products.

Saravia traveled to Mongolia and to Shanghai, where he visited agricultural stations. On 16 May Minister Saravia will inaugurate the second ordinary session of [words indistinct] in Paris.

Venezuela

More Student Violence in Caracas Reported

PA1105161794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Alexander Barrios, from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] There was student violence in Caracas for a fourth consecutive day. The disturbances began early Tuesday morning at Moran Avenue when students from the Jose de San Martin Vocational School began protesting the death last Thursday of German Sotillo, from the Fermin Toro School. The students also protested over the announced hike in student transportation rates which might begin within the next few days, according to Juan Landaeta, a student from the Jose de San Martin Vocational School. [passage indistinct]

The students detained a grocery truck, with license plate number 624XCO, from the Diaz Supermarkets. After residents of the area looted the truck, the students burned it. Five public transportation buses were also detained for over three hours at the Jose de San Martin School.

After several hours of clashes, the students tried to call for a truce in exchange for the release of some of their fellow students who had been arrested, but this did not occur.

Students from the Andres Bello, Santos, Michelena, and Rafael Urdaneta Schools later joined the protests at Mexico Avenue, in front of the Andres Bello School. One store was looted during this demonstration. The Metropolitan Police are conducting investigations.

Demonstrations Continue

PA1105174294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1614 GMT 11 May 94

[Text] Caracas, 11 May (DPA)—Student protests continued today in several Caracas neighborhoods and nearby areas. The protests initially resulted in the arrest of 65 demonstrators and the looting and burning of a cargo truck, according to radio reports.

Today's demonstrations, staged by high school students, took place in the neighborhoods of Propatria, Caricuao, and Moran, in the southern and southeastern areas of Caracas. Meanwhile, other demonstrations were reported in the towns of Los Teques and Valles del Tuy, near the Venezuelan capital.

According to Radio Rumbos, 15 demonstrators were arrested in Caracas and 50 in Valles del Tuy, where a soda truck was looted and burned.

The protesters are demanding preferential student bus fares, which in practice means having to pay half of the regular public transportation fares.

There were protests in Caracas yesterday, in which two policemen were injured by stones and bottles hurled by students. Today, in addition to policemen, members of the militarized National Guard intervened in an attempt to stop the demonstrations.

Court Employee Strike Paralyzes Judicial System

PA1105173094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Maria Yolanda Garces from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The indefinite strike by court employees that began Monday will not end until the representatives of the Judiciary Council, labor groups, and the executive agree on a solution that meets workers' demands. For more than one year now, these employees have been awaiting the implementation of an arbitration ruling signed as the result of a situation similar to the one the judicial branch is now experiencing. According to Judiciary Council President (Beli Estaba), the executive was asked on Tuesday to review the situation and to approve the necessary credit immediately to comply with the ruling which has not yet been put into force because of a lack of funds.

[Begin recording] [Estaba] We cannot blame this situation on this or that person. What we must do is resolve the problem. On 2 February, we requested the additional credit to comply with the terms of the arbitration ruling issued by the Velasquez administration. We have proof that Ocepre [Central Budget Office] received the request on 3 February at 0213.

[Unidentified reporter] What happened? Have you received any information from the executive?

[Estaba] We have not, although we have met with the minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency and the deputy minister of finance. We have not heard anything about this credit.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] say the Judiciary Council magistrates have blocked granting other socioeconomic benefits that were included in last year's arbitration ruling?

[Estaba] That is not true. We have complied with the ruling to the extent that our resources permit. [end recording]

The representative of the court employees said the strike will stop only if their demands are accepted, including the exact date in which they will be paid the social benefits they have not yet received.

[Begin recording of unidentified labor leader] The strike will end when the minimal conditions are met, as we just informed the Judiciary Council during the plenary meeting. Those conditions include: the immediate approval of the salary we are requesting, based on the proper implementation of the arbitration ruling; the exact date we will be paid; a general revision of the budget to request additional credit in line with the true needs of the arbitration ruling; approval of the income and overtime regulations; approval of the labor law privileges, which they are ignoring; reinstatement of dismissed employees; and acknowledgement of our rights to concessions. Clearly, these are minimal conditions, and had such rights not existed, we would not have had an arbitration ruling in our favor. We are prepared to negotiate the other points of disagreement—points which do exist—without a strike. [end recording]

Court activities are paralyzed nationwide. Only a few penal courts are working in Caracas, such as the 26th Penal Court. Although it has not held hearings or conducted secretarial work, this court took the statements of those people indicted in the case of financial assistance

funds, including (Jose Luis Rovenga) and (Luis Guanone), FIDEC [expansion unknown] president and board member, respectively.

Public Employees Demonstrate for Pay Hike

PA1105165894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 May 94

[Report by Cecila Cayone from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Since early this morning, Tuesday [10 May—as heard], a large group of state white and blue collar workers have been demonstrating outside Congress to express their demands. There were some tense moments in Congress when the demonstrators threatened to enter the Congress by force if congressional authorities did not present themselves. The situation, however, was solved when Congress President Senator Eduardo Gomez Tamayo heard their demands and received the document with their list of petitions. CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] leader, Rito Alvarez explained their demands.

[Begin Alvarez recording] We are [words indistinct] the national Congress leaders to expedite the payment of wage increases contained in the decree former president Ramon J. Velasquez signed. Second, employees of entities being restructured, privatized, or liquidated should not be excluded, because we believe the decree (?includes them) [words indistinct], and it is not the public employees's fault that enterprises are being privatized, reorganized, or liquidated.

We are also demanding the [words indistinct] of salaries for pensioners and retirees who are living in poverty. It is disgraceful that people who have worked all their lives should face such extreme poverty after they are no longer productive. [end recording]

Congress President Eduardo Gomez Tamayo said lawmakers will review the document with great care. He admitted the country's situation has become somewhat difficult and he made an appeal to the people.

[Begin Gomez recording] [Words indistinct] you, the country's situation has become difficult, and this is unfortunate. I believe now is the time to show we are patriots, Venezuelans, above all else. The situation requires a great effort, sacrifice from all sectors, without exception, to have a successful resolution. This is what we need to do, and I believe...[pauses] and take advantage of this opportunity to call on different segments of society to think of Venezuela first before adopting any stance or attitude. [end recording]

Ministers Report Plan To Destabilize Country

PA1105232594 Caracas Radio Nacional de Venezuela Canal Clasico Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 May 94

[From "The National Newscast"]

[Text] Venezuelan Interior Minister Ramon Escovar Salom has charged there is a subversive plan aimed at destabilizing the country. Escovar also said that the national government will adopt severe measures against persons speculating in the value of the dollar.

[Begin Escovar recording] I want to tell you the following: This morning there were riots in some areas of the capital and in some places in the interior. Most of the demonstrations are under control. None are out of the government's control. Both the National Guard and the metropolitan police are on the streets closely cooperating to safeguard public order.

The citizens can be sure that the government is prepared to take every measure necessary to safeguard the country's peace. I want to report that there is a plan that calls for agitation. Political interests that sometimes are contradictory are involved in this plan. The people involved hope that public order alterations may help their particular objectives.

To this we can add that before I was interior minister, when I was the prosecutor general, I spoke of a hairy arm. I want to tell you that the hairy arm is roaming around, that it is acting up. The government is investigating to determine the degree of participation in these events of the mourners of corruption and people who do not want the penalization of some crimes against the state or of crimes of corruption, people who want to create confusion to use it as a smokescreen at a moment when the country is closely following the struggle against corruption. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Education Minister Antonio Luis Cardenas appealed to students not to be fooled. He also urged parents and others not to let secondary schools be used for subversive purposes.

[Begin Cardenas recording] Right. We, and I in particular, as education minister, deeply regret that people who want to subvert public order, as well as destabilize the country, are using public secondary schools and the boys, girls, and young people studying in those schools to create riots and confusion.

Those people must realize that those schools care for the lower income population and that the country is being seriously harmed when boys and girls and young people are used to achieve ugly goals. We have already had the unfortunate death of one student. We regret that. Today I was informed that a young man and a boy have been wounded. We must stop this situation. We must clearly identify who the enemies of public education are, who is leading these young people to a dangerous situation. We appeal to parents and custodians and the community not to let their schools, the ones attended by the needy people, the public schools, to be used for subversive purposes.

We have decided not to suspend classes because we do not think that is a solution, that it would harm the young people. [end recording]

Fogade Official Details Maracaibo Bank Rescue

PA1105220194 Caracas Radio Nacional de Venezuela Canal Clasico Network 2200 GMT 8 May 94

[Report by Geovani Esposito from Maracaibo]

[Text] President Rafael Caldera has acknowledged that Venezuela's economy is in serious disarray. Nevertheless, he was also optimistic enough to say that his administration is doing its utmost to overcome the situation.

Following constant subsidies totalling nearly 120 billion bolivares authorized since this past January, Fogade [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund] is now the owner of approximately 72 percent of Banco de Maracaibo shares.

Fogade President Norys Aguirre announced the names of the new Banco de Maracaibo Board of Directors, which will be headed by Jorge Correa. The new board of directors will be responsible for executing and implementing the reorganization plan that includes, among others, the following measures: streamlining spending, restoring Bank of Maracaibo's losses with Fogade financial assets, increasing the bank's capital to more or less 6 percent of assets, reorganizing operations by injecting resources, implementing auditing practices, and requesting technical assistance from international experts specializing in the subject.

The Fogade president also indicated that by intervening in the Occidente Mortgage Bank, the Banking Superintendency was able to stabilize the bank's situation as part of Latino Group.

Aguirre pointed out that she supports the reorganization plan about to be implemented by intervention board President Enrique Faria de Lima. He has set 17 May as the date for offering guarantees to depositors.

According to the Fogade president, all of these traumas which the Venezuelan financial system is enduring represent one of its worst crises. Nevetheless, she believes that one should not fall victim to the mistake twice.

[Begin Aguirre recording, in progress]...an improved supervisory organization. A renovated oversight organization that will not allow situations to develop to a level such as that at which we have arrived today in Venezuela. [end recording]

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